THE INTEREST OF ENGLAND CONSIDERED:

IN AN

ESSAY UPON

WOOL,

Our Woollen-Manufactures, and the Improvement of Trade.

With some

Remarks upon the Conceptions

OF

Sir *Josiah Child.*

LONDON,

Printed for *Walter Kettilby*, at the *Bishop's-Head* in St. *Paul's* Church-yard. 1694.

THE EPISTLE TO THE READER.

Friendly Reader,

MY *Curiosity led me to an Expence for my Information, in the new discourse of* Trade, *that lately appear'd in the World, under the Hand of the Honoured Sir* Josiah Child; *where the dissatisfaction in my Pennyworth, hath occasioned the like Trap for others, but shall make no Apology, because great part of the Substance of his, with this Addition, will come cheaper into Hand, tho' still a dear Pennyworth.*

Trade is a thing in it ſelf that deſerves Paper as well as a Play, having never been more neglected than theſe late Years; and this foolliſh ſhot may be a means to beget a wiſer, or at leaſt put abler Heads upon thinking.

Finding this Gentleman meaſuring the affairs of the whole Nation by the Splendor that he obſerved in the great City, in the noiſe of the Whip, the ratling of the Wheels, prancing of the Horſes, and jumping Chariot, to his famous Country Houſe.

And my livelihood leading me into ſeveral Counties where I have obſerved many Out-Houſes unthatcht, the Brew-Houſes belonging to many ancient Manſion Houſes of Free-Stone, untiled, and the Timber rotten, and as great an Emblem of Poverty,

verty, which ſeems Face to Face to anſwer each other, I could do no leſs than offer this Balance to his Career, being a true part of the Account.

But that which chiefly incouraged me to this attempt, was the clear ſence of the ill Conſequence of his levelling deſign, in laying open all our Privileges, ſetting our Doors wide open to all our native Commodities, permitting Strangers to Co-habit, trade, and purchaſe Lands amongſt us upon as eaſie terms as the Dutch *dò, Pag.* 44. *Deſtroying all Rule and Order in Trade; a* Weaver *to be a* Tucker, *or a* Mercer *a* Clothier, *and all Goods to be made at the choice of the Maker, &c.*

In the Conſequence of which, ſome deſigning Politick Perſons will ingroſs the greateſt part of Trade into their Hands, and grow vaſtly rich by the poverty of thoſe that have leſs Foreſight and Cunning; whereas Laws kept in due Execution, and publick Markets ſtrictly obſerved, will encreaſe the number of Merchants, *will keep diſtinct Stations and good Order in Trade, and thereby preſerve our Reputation, by the goodneſs of our Commodities, which alone can keep up the Price of Goods, and give incouragement to the* Breeder, *who ought chiefly to be conſidered from his honeſt Labour.*

What the Gentleman obſerves more than once, That there is no mating the Dutch *in Trade without* Samp-

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ſons and Goliahs, *I humbly conceive is a miſtake, and there is no Advantage to the Publick by a Stock of Twenty thouſand Pounds in one Merchant's Hands, more than if it were in three; I am ſure leſs when imployed in Ingroſſing.*

To give a little allay to our preſent vogue of a Free-Trade, I have herein endeavoured, to the beſt of my Judgment, to ſet forth the Value and Excellency of our Woollen-Manufactures, *the commanding Commodity of our Nation, and thoſe Advantages in Trade that we are capable to ſecure unto our ſelves, being* Engliſh-*Men, and have modeſtly toucht upon the tender Conceptions of my Honoured Author; all which I ſubmit to the Candor of the* Friendly Reader, *in this ſatisfaction*

tisfaction to my ſelf, That the chief aim of my deſign herein was the Publick Good, how far diſtant ſoever I fall ſhort of the Mark.

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THE INTEREST OF ENGLAND Considered.

THE good Genius of our present Government discovering a fair Prospect and good Disposition to a settlement of the Affairs of Trade upon the just Basis of the Publick good of our own Nation; and no less presumption and confidence, upon the other Hand, in defending the plausible Title of Foreign and Private Interest, got in possession: My willingness to add the least Mite to so generous an undertaking, (having thro' my Education and Practice gained some Experience in the Woollen-Manufacture, the master Wheel of Trade) hath induced me to appear in

in this little Eſſay; the Practick part of which Subject, (being not well known) may be likely to give ſome light to the good Patriots of our Country, who are to weigh the matter: However ſo comprehenſive an excellency in it ſelf, that were thoſe Advantages which Providence hath herein afforded this Iſland but induſtriouſly improved, we muſt neceſſarily become the moſt flouriſhing Nation in the whole World.

Let the product of our Lands be never ſo abounding in its Fertile and exceeding comprehenſive Effects, (not to be equalled by any other part of the World, and the ſureſt foundation of Trade.) were we but diligent in ſecuring the Manufacture of our *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Wooll, improving of it according to its natural Excellencies, and thoſe Advantages we enjoy, and afterwards in diſpoſing of it to the beſt advantage abroad, and ſecuring the Benefit of the Merchandize to our own Nation; thoſe Effects would ſtill give a good price, and we ſhould come to an equal Balance in a populous and glorious People.

So great a dependance hath the Trade of this Nation upon the Woollen-Manufacture, that, according to the judgment

judgment of famous *Coke*, Nine parts in Ten of our Exported Commodities doth come from the Sheep's Back, and from hence alone is the Spring of our Riches.

When the Advantages of Trade were not rightly underſtood, before the days of *Edward* the Third, and our Wooll was carried into *Flanders* to be manufactured, fourteen Pounds of Clothing Wooll was ſold in *England* at Eighteen Pence, as appears by the Statute *viceſimo quinto Hen.* VIII. *cap.* 13. which quantity of Wooll, by the diligent improvement of Trade, in a regular management of the Manufacture in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, was currantly ſold at twelve Shillings, and continued upon advance until about Forty Years ſince, which is well in memory.

And the value of Lands proportionably advanc'd as Trade encreas'd; and ſince all government in Trade hath been laid aſide, the privilege of *Engliſh* Merchants deſtroyed for twenty Years paſt, in a free currant of Trade with all the World, Fourteen Pounds of Clothing Wooll hath been currantly ſold at ſeven Shillings, and all other Effects of Land in great meaſure fallen.

As we exceed any other part of the World in the quality of our Wooll, ſo likewiſe in quantity, growing from the good temper of ſo moderate a Climate, and ſecurity of our Sheep from Beaſts of prey: Providence hath herein accommodated us to the exact uſefulneſs of all Mankind; and it is no ſmall advantage in trade to be fitted with a compleat ſortment of Goods, abounding in a middle ſort of Wooll, excellent in its kind, and ſuitable to a middle ſort of People, which are far the greater number, and moſt, conſidering their pennyworths. And herein is chiefly our ſtrength; not that we in the leaſt fall ſhort in the merit of our fine Wooll, our *Herefordſhire* and *Shropſhire* Wooll not to be equalled in its kind, by any part of the World, and ſuitable to almoſt any degree; and altho' we muſt ſubmit to *Spain* in the utmoſt curioſity of fineneſs, yet upon the account of our Bays, Serges, Perpetuanaes, *&c.* which are ſo agreeable to the *Spaniards* uſe, we ſtand faireſt for the procuring thoſe Woolls; and being the immediate Effects of our own, after we have had the benefit of the Manufacture, it doubles the advantage to our Nation: The Manufacture of *Spaniſh* Wooll is much more

more than the prime coſt of the Wooll, great part of which being made into Cloth, is ſent to *Turkey*, where we contend with the *Dutch*, and by means of other ſortments, have gained much upon them in Fine Cloth; and had we twice as much Fine Wooll of our own growing, what we could ſpare from our own uſe, and *Flanders*, would be taken off by the *Turks*.

Nay farther, to add to theſe Benefits, (to ſhew that this *Golden Fleece* is the diſtinguiſhing favour of Providence) we are likewiſe bleſt with other advantages peculiar to our ſelves, as Fullers-Earth, incouraging Waters for Dying, and quick Rivers for Milling and Rowing our Cloth, which is a great advantage we have upon the *Dutch* who are our chiefeſt Competitors.

And to aggravate the unreaſonableneſs of the fall of the price of Wooll upon us, we have evidently made a very great progreſs in the curioſity of our Cloth theſe late Years, having quite vanquiſh'd the *Dutch* in their laſt effort upon us with their thin Blacks, and not to be equalled by any part of the World, in the real merit of our Cloth, luſtre in Colour, and variety of Fancy. Not above forty Years paſt we were

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ſerved from *Holland* with moſt of our Fine Cloth for our Nobility and Gentry, and the great complaint of thoſe days was, That our Cloth was not fully Manufactured in *England*: both which points are now gained.

So comprehenſive an excellency is our *Engliſh* Wooll, that it may be improved to the thickeſt Felt, which will ſecure from the moſt violent Storms of Wet; and be likewiſe drawn to the thinneſt Crape, and ſtill carrying a merit with it, and thereby rendering it ſelf an acceptable Commodity both in hot and cold Climates: And the reſidence of our *Engliſh* Merchants abroad to diſpoſe of our Manufacture in former days was always courted, as is clear by the many privileges granted to us at *Hamburgh*; and the *Engliſh* Merchant that can thus furniſh his Warehouſe abroad with ſuitable Goods for all degrees of People, muſt needs hereby have an advantage of the *Dutch* and *French*, who are much wanting herein, unleſs by the aſſiſtance of our Markets and Wooll.

So that whoſoever doth calmly conſider the Trade of the whole World, the ground of its dependance, (Man being born naked) and the Beauty as well as Uſefulneſs of our Woollen-Manufacture, muſt

muſt own, That thoſe that are Maſters in this Golden Fleece muſt be Maſters in Trade, if they are not wanting to themſelves, and that the Woollen-Manufacture brought to its perfection is the commanding Commodity of the whole World, as was illuſtrated by the ſimile of one Man's keeping Sheep, and the other digging for Treaſure, the Riches by degrees centring in his Hands that kept the Sheep. And if we of this Nation are not Maſters in Trade, how can we excuſe our ſelves from the imputation of *Solomon*, of a *Price in the Hands of*——is to me unaccountable.

The truth of this being too plain to admit of Objection, I proceed according to my purpoſe, and the beſt of my judgment briefly to ſhew the cauſes of our decay of Trade in this particular, how we have lain open to *France* and *Holland* in their attempts upon us thro' the neglect of our own preſervation, and ill management of Trade amongſt our ſelves; whether the neglect hath been willful or inadvertent, I ſhall not determine.

1. The chief cauſe of the decay of our Trade hath been the Exportation of our *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Wooll into *France* and *Holland*, the truth of which

practice hath been evident by viſible demonſtrations.

It is thus expreſt by the Eminent Sir *Joſiah Child*, *pag.* 128. That, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of our Laws, we ſee that *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Wooll goes over ſo plentifully that it is within a very ſmall matter as cheap in *Holland* as in *England*; and if it hath been ſo in *Holland*, much more in *France*: And ſo long as we do not effectually preſerve our own Wooll, it is in vain to value our ſelves in the leaſt upon the excellency of the Commodity; the carriage of our Wooll by Sea rendering it cheaper in *France* from *Suſſex* and ſeveral other conſiderable places of Wooll in *England*, than by Land carriage to the neareſt place of Manufacture in our own Nation; and their workmanſhip in *France* being ſo much cheaper than ours, there can be no withſtanding its force at our foreign Markets, but muſt be beat with our own Weapons: Their great advantage upon us herein hath been in our long Worſted Wooll, where the workmanſhip is trebble the value of the Wooll, as in Druggers, Worſted-Hoſe, *&c.* where the loſs of each Pack of ſuch Wooll is above fifty Pounds loſs to our own Nation in the Manufacture; hereby

hereby they have advanc'd their *Spaniſh* Trade, and made themſelves great Merchants, and increas'd their Shipping, have brought their Manufacture to be able to work up *Spaniſh* Wooll, (which is but a new thing) for the uſe of their own Nation; and what is urg'd by ſome, *That there is no fear of the* French *in the Woollen-Manufacture, that they only murder the Commodity*, to my own knowledge is a great miſtake; and on the contrary they have made a very great improvement in Fine Cloth, which is impoſſible to be otherwiſe, ſo long as they had the freedom of all our aſſiſtance. About ten Years ſince, we had a great Trade for our beſt *Spaniſh* Cloth in *France*, which was occaſioned by the thriving and flouriſhing condition of that Nation, that ſo many were able to wear the beſt *Spaniſh* Cloth, contrary to former time, which the King of *France* ſoon perceived, and laid an impoſition of twenty Five *per Cent.* upon our Manufacture, and went ſmoothly on with his own, by the increaſe of his *Spaniſh* Trade. It is true we can't hinder them from *Spaniſh* Wooll, but if the dependance of their *Spaniſh* Trade is upon our long Wooll, the freedom of our Markets for Bays, Serges, Perpetuana's, *&c.* which

ever ſince 25 *Caroli* II. they have had a free liberty to ſend hence upon equal terms with the *Engliſh* Merchants. I hope we are able to incorporate our *Spaniſh* Trade, and to put on aliens Duties again, and then they muſt ſend for *Spaniſh* Wooll with their Money, which in former time was not ſo plenty with them, nor yet *Spaniſh* Cloth ſo much for their wear. Were their Advantage and our Loſs ſumm'd up in this particular, it would be a comprehenſive Summ; and the ſudden growth of *France* (which hath been by no miraculous means) is confirmation that there would be no miſtake in the Figures. I ſhall not ſpend time in looking back upon a loſt Gain, (our Neceſſities having pretty well opened our Eyes) no more than in conſidering the Statute of 14 *Caroli* II. that made the Exportation of Wooll, by Principle, Aiders, or Aſſiſters, to be Felony, when the Statute of 12 *Caroli* II. had provided as likely a remedy to prevent it as was then thought upon, and the latter Statute doth no way expreſs it's deſign to corroborate the former, and in that little time there could not be a clear diſcovery of its operation, and Acts of Parliament ſpringing from the ſincere good

good of the Publick did not grow in Cluſters in our late Reigns: From which, and the conſideration of the Nature of the laſt Statute, I can't but think the firſt year too great a check to the practice of Exportation of Wooll, and that the latter was procured by the *French* Intereſt, and only a ſhelter to the former; for who would occaſion a great deal of trouble to himſelf in proſecution to take away the life of his Brother in this caſe; nay the ſeverity of the Act it ſelf begets a ſcruple with ſome People; and where are the inſtances of Fact in ſo many Years upon the Statute.

If the ſixth part of our Wooll ſhould be carried away unmanufactured, how muſt this affect the value of our Lands, when the livelihood of ſo many People is taken away, who by degrees beſure muſt follow or remain as a burthen upon our own Nation: The clear ſenſe of this grievance put the worthy Sir *Matthew Hale* upon a new propoſal for the imployment of the Poor, urging, That our populouſneſs, which is the greateſt bleſſing a Kingdom can enjoy, is become the burthen of our Nation; but it proved ineffectual, whilſt nothing but a natural means that can relieve us here-

in. As ſoon as there is encouragement in Trade, the Labourers that can promote it, will be ſought after.

The uneaſineſs of this burthen upon us theſe late years, hath occaſioned many unuſual remedies and attempts, many new Acts of Parliaments, contrary to the clear ſence of our Anceſtors. Being once miſled, our uneaſineſs made way for a farther deſign upon us; as a Man once out of his way will be ready to liſten believingly unto almoſt any Direction. After this Act to let our Wooll go, in 15 *Caroli* II. there was an Act made for the encouragement of Trade in its Title, whilſt the Body of the Act was no more than to encourage the Exportation of Corn, and to give a liberty to carry away our Bullion, which helpt one ſtep forward. In the next place followed the Act againſt importing Cattle from *Ireland*; which was a Cure like the reſt that led to farther inconveniencies, in 17 *Caroli* II. After which a free liberty was given to Export Leather in 20 *Caroli* II. directly contrary to former Statutes, ſucceſſively. And to compleat the whole deſign, in 25 *Caroli* II. there was an Act made to take off Aliens duties upon all Commodities of the growth

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product, and manufacture of our Nation, except Coals; which fully anſwered their end, our *Spaniſh* Trade being wholly open, and our *Flanders* and *Germany* in great meaſure, and our *Holland* Trade free; all the Privileges of *England* were given away by whole ſale, whilſt all theſe Acts proved but turnings in a Fever, which gave ground to the Diſtemper upon us, no way affecting the true Cauſe; and this not matter of choice, if any other way propoſed, the Country Air was ſoon thought beſt.

Could we but effectually prevent the Exportation of our Wooll, many of theſe Acts of Parliament of free Exportation of our Corn and Leather will be thought needfull to be repealed, and we ſhould ſooner want thoſe Commodities than People to take them off.

As we of this Iſland are infinitely engaged to Providence for many Excellencies ſecured to us on all ſides by a River, ſo likewiſe in our Negligence we are hereby the more liable to foreign attempts upon us: Was there no way to loſe our Wooll but by twenty Miles Land-carriage, it would be eaſily prevented; but whilſt we are liable to the Eaſy and Cheap Carriage by Water on all ſides, it gives Life to un-

ceſſant attempts, and our difficulty to ſecure our ſelves is the greater.

Whether *Ovid* alluded to our great great Grandfathers care in this particular, when *Jaſon* ſailed to ſteal the *Golden Fleece*, aſſiſted by *Medæa*'s Charms to fortify him againſt the never ſleeping Dragon, and whoſe Bulls with their Steel tipt Horns, that were to guard it with their watchfulneſs, I am not Antiquary enough to determine. However, the fence of our ſecurity herein, I am ſatisfied, can't be fortified with too great a care; which, I hope, will be ſpeedily conſidered by the moſt judicious Patriots of our Country: So ſhall we draw back, as in the days of *Edward* III. thoſe Artificers in the Woollen Manufacture that we have loſt, and poſſibly ſome of foreign Nations, if our wants require, and our own People will be thorowly imploy'd.

I ſhall not preſume to preſcribe in this important affair, only humbly offer my weak opinion.

I muſt confeſs I differ in my Judgment from the laſt Expedient provided in this Caſe, where the Execution of the Laws againſt Exportation of Wooll, were to receive their Life from Commiſſioners appointed, who ſhould maintain Officers

eers to attend it, argues his being ſo eaſily dazled with a white Miſt, as the World now goes. I am fully perſwaded that if there be not an Act made that will operate it ſelf by vertue of a Reward of the Goods ſeized, it will prove ineffectual. By this means all Eyes will be open; for the encouragement of which, I think the full reward of the Wooll, and the benefit of the confiſcation of the Ship, the Cattle that are found to be aſſiſting; the Eſtate of Principle and Aſſiſtants ſhould go by the eaſieſt means that can be contrived, to the Seizer or Diſcoverer, a quarter part of which ſhould be divided amongſt the Poor of the Pariſh where it is diſcovered and ſeized; hereby there will be aſſiſtance, and, whatſoever Wooll is diſcovered in any Out-Houſe, packt up within ten Miles of the Sea, ſhall be adjudged for this deſign, and liable to be ſeized: Nay, if we did moreover allow a Reward out of the Exchequer for theſe years, as was allowed in 25 *Caroli* II. to thoſe that ſhould then Export Corn, I think it would be altogether as agreeable to the publick good, and be a good means to help to break the courſe of it. I doubt not but the late Act in this kind to diſcover High-

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way. Men will prove a very good Act for our ſecurity in that particular. And for a corporal puniſhment, which will be likewiſe needful, I think we can't do better than to follow the Act of Queen *Elizabeth* againſt exportation of live Sheep, where the offender is liable to one years Impriſonment, without either Bail or Mainprize, and at the end of the year to be brought out in the Market-place, at the fulleſt time of the Market, and there to have his left Arm cut off, and nailed up in the ſight of the People. A few ſuch inſtances would be a lively remembrance of the penalty, and would give a great check to the Practice, and that the Act of Parliament ſhould be lodged in ſome publick place in every Pariſh in *England* and *Ireland*, and read once every year to the People. There are many in *England* that are wholly ignorant of this matter, that poſſibly by this means may be ſerviceable.

And to prevent the Reſettor, which in this Caſe is as bad as the Thief, the reviving the Statute of *Edward* VI. *anno quinto & ſexto, cap.* 7. would be an effectual means: Whoſoever bought Wooll, that did not ſpin it into Yarn, or make it into ſome ſort of Manufacture,

&ure, forfeited double the value of the Wooll by that Statute, which kept out Broggers of Wooll, who are the only forwarders of this Practice; the Statute remained in force ſeventy years, and deſerves upon ſeveral other good Conſiderations to be revived.

The time that that Statute was made being a parallel with our foreign Intereſt by the Merchants of the *Stillyard*, and private Intereſt by debaſing our Cloth, as is ſufficiently made out by the Preamble of the foregoing Statute to this. I doubt not but there was great debate about making the Act, the diſ-advantage by ſome colour being likely to fall upon thoſe that had Wooll to ſell in remote places from its Manufacture, (tho in it ſelf but a Shadow) which fixt the matter with ſo great caution, that the Act was not left probationary, as is uſual in doubtful matters, but that the King by his Proclamation ſhould give liberty to theſe Men to buy Wooll again; but the viſible advantage to the Publick preſerved the Statute ſeventy Years, notwithſtanding Appeals that were made againſt it in about five Years after it was made; which I humbly ſubmit to Conſideration.

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2. The next hinderance to the Conſumption of our Woollen-Manufacture and grievance to Trade, hath been the ill Management of that Wooll that we have had remaining, eſpecially the lower and middle ſort, which is chiefly for Exportation, which hath been wholly occaſioned thro' want of due execution of thoſe good Laws that were made to prevent this great abuſe to the Publick, and letting in Aliens into the benefit of the Merchandize of our Cloth.

There is certainly as much need of Government in Trade to preſerve the publick Good, as of Laws to ſecure one Man's right from being invaded by another; and thoſe Acts of Parliament from *Edward* III. down to the Twenty firſt of King *James*, (ſucceſſively approved of) to preſerve the goodneſs and reputation of our Cloth abroad were certainly grounded upon good reaſon; the ill effect of the neglect of which was never more viſible in any time than at preſent. Our Woollen-Manufacture for Exportation, for the moſt part, is come to perfection in Deceit and falſhood, made as thin and ſlight as poſſible can be contrived, (ſecuring the name of Cloth) that it may thereby become the fitter ſubject for exceſſive ſtraining.

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If any Marks of honeſt and good making Cloth be ſought after abroad, that advantage is ſoon ſwallowed up by private intereſt, and falſe Cloth preſently ſent over in thoſe Marks, not in diſguiſe, but bareſac'd, which loudly crys for Reformation upon the ſcore of publick juſtice, did it no way concern the publick: This hath grown upon us as private Intereſt in Trade hath got the ſway, the Merchandize of moſt of our Cloth being fallen into the Hands of foreign Merchants who have a nearer Interſt of their own to preferr, and very well knew the check we always had upon them by the goodneſs of our *Engliſh* Cloth, in which particular they have been ſo ſucceſsful that there are now ſent hither out of *Flanders* ſome particular *Dutch* Liſts that the *Hollanders* make upon their Cloth, diſtinct from the *Engliſh*, which we are put upon to imitate, and ſome of the Materials fetcht from *Holland* to make them withal, that we may the better ſell our Cloth under their credit, whilſt poſſibly the Cloth is made in *Holland* with our Wooll. The Honourable Sir *Joſiah Child* very well obſerves (in his new Diſcourſe of Trade) the exact care of the *Dutch* in making all their native Com-

Commodities, that the repute of the ſaid Commodities continues always good, and the buyers will accept of them by the Marks, without opening, which, I ſuppoſe, ſprings from the care of the Government, (otherwiſe private Intereſt would ſpring up in that ſoil too) and very much recommends it to our imitation, *Pag.* 2. as one chief ground of their Riches, very much condemning our negligence, where Seals may be bought by the Thouſands, and put upon what Cloth the Makers pleaſe.

Falſhood and Deceit in Trade may ſet out briskly, like a Cockneigh, upon a Gallop in a Morning, but it always flags in the Afternoon; and it is certainly the Intereſt of *England* to ſecure our Trade with foreign Nations by a juſt and friendly uſage; no Perſon in the World loves to be Cheated; to ſtrain our Cloth one Yard in five, when it evidently deſtroys the good Dreſſing of Cloth, takes up time in doing it, and draws along with it ſeveral other inconveniencies to our ſelves, and the Buyers abroad in ſhrinking it, is, I think, an unaccountable, fooliſh, and diſhoneſt practice. The Worthy Author before mentioned, propoſeth a very fair Queſtion, *Pag.* 151.

What

What is to be done in *England*, ſays he, to improve the Trade thereof to ſuch a degree as to equalize or overbalance our Neighbours in our National profit by our Foreign Trade? And I think anſwers it as well, *Pag.* 161. Publick Juſtice and Honeſty will make it the Intereſt of other Nations to trade with us; the Publick Faith of the Nation being concerned in our commerce abroad, tho' a private Perſon may carry on a Trade abroad with falſe overſtrained, cheating Goods, and thereby put a cheat upon the Subjects of Foreign Nations, yet this doth certainly reflect upon the publick Juſtice of that Nation from which the Goods come, eſpecially ſo good a Government that we live under, and the Religion we profeſs. The firſt breaking of bounds and entering upon this deceitful Practice, which was about the Year 1663. I am aſſured from a worthy Merchant that lived abroad, made a very great alarm in *Germany*, and he then foretold the Effect of it, and very much urged for Redreſs to his friends in *England*, which we now very well ſee.

The Statute of 21 *Jacobi* that provided ſo well to preſerve the reputation of our *Engliſh* Broad Cloth in foreign parts,

parts, by a penalty of Five Pounds for every Broad Cloth that was made of Pinions and Noyles, or any other worſe Commodity than Fleece-Wooll, was certainly a good Statute, and had it been duly executed, the credit of our Cloth abroad had not been at this low ebb; notwithſtanding Sir *Joſiah Child* who tells us, *Pag.* 63. that there was never a good Law made that was not duly executed, the fault of the Law cauſing a failure of execution

If One Cloth in Ten be made of falſe materials, it will very much diſparage the other Nine. The complaint of one Man abuſed with *Engliſh* Cloth, will make a greater noiſe againſt us than ſeveral that are well uſed will retrieve, the latter being no more than is fairly expected.

The general Objection is, That if we do not ſerve Markets abroad with cheap Cloth, the *Dutch* and other Nations will carry the Trade from us: To anſwer this Objection, I will only give the difference in a low priz'd Merchants Cloth of the value of five or ſix Shillings a Yard, between a well made Cloth, and one that is ſlight and deceitful, the value being chiefly in ſaving a few pounds of Yarn in your firſt allowance, whilſt the

the charge of Milling, Dreſſing, Colouring, Freight, Cuſtom, and afterwards Trimming and Making, (which many times is as much as the coſt of the Cloth) is in every particular the ſame; ſo that in this matter the ſaving or adding the value of nine Pence or one Shilling at moſt, in a Suit of Clothes to a labouring Man, ſhall make him either diſparage or commend our *Engliſh* Cloth, whilſt the *French* and *Dutch* are ready at hand to offer ſome Drugget, or Cloth of theirs; and theſe are the People that conſider their Pennyworths by the ſervice, in a laborious converſe with each other.

The loſs of our Trade in *Germany* and *Flanders* from Eighty Thouſand Cloths a year to leſs than Twenty, and as great a proportion in *Ruſſia*, *Dantzick*, and the *Eaſt* Country, is no ſmall abatement in Trade, which continued ſo long as our Cloth was kept to a Standard goodneſs, and hath evidently abated as it hath been made more ſlight and falſified.

Nothing but a new Law can redreſs this Grievance upon us; the lengths of Cloths being ſo much altered from former allowances, the beſt ground of which, in my weak opinion, will be

certain lengths and weight, duly proportioned by the beſt advice that can be had in the ſeveral Manufactures, the execution of the Law to be encouraged by an allowance to the Finder of ſo much for every Pound that is wanting, which will make all goods be weighed, as it was in the Statute of *Edward* VI. *anno quinto & ſexto, cap.* 6. and in 4 *Jacobi.* Altho' ſome places require thicker Cloth than other ſome, yet the Advantage herein will be the well ſtriking the Cloth in the Loom, and the other may be well enough add'd in giving a little better breadth in the Milling.

3. I proceed farther to ſhew the moſt unreaſonable and groundleſs alteration in Trade, the folly of which, I think, no age can parallel, which hath brought an unneceſſary charge of at leaſt Eight *per cent.* upon the greateſt part of our Cloth, beſides innumerable other inconveniencies that it will be too tedious to relate, without the leaſt colour of ſolid Advantage to the Publick.

The care of the City of *London* provided a conſiderable Market called *Blackwel-Hall*, at a conſiderable expence, for the accommodation of the Clothiers of all Counties to lodge and ſell their Cloth.

The

The Rules of this Market were exactly ſetled for the accommodation of the Clothiers as well as the Merchants; many good Laws ſucceſſively made by the Corporation of the City of *London* for the benefit of *Engliſh* Merchants; and after Factors had got ſome footing in the Hall, they made an Act of Common-Council that they ſhould take no Apprentices to the hinderance of the Clothier; and the Trade was managed in this open and publick Market, time out of Mind, and began at laſt to diſpenſe with our Laws.

Factors that are Freemen now ſell Cloth in this Market to Freemen, contrary to the ancient Rules of Law and Reaſon, took as many Apprentices as they ſaw fit, in deſpight of Act of Common-Council, took poſſeſſion of the Hall, and no Cloth to be ſold there but muſt come thro' their Hands, whilſt the Packers drew another part into their private Houſes, where they kept a free and open Market upon any day of the week, where an Alien was as free to buy Cloth as the *Engliſh* Merchant, and the Clothier nothing to do in the ſale of his own Cloth: Hereby Foreigners have beat out the *Engliſh* Merchants, the Factors have brought on long Cre-

dit with Cloth, thereby to neceſſitate the Clothiers to buy their Wooll of them, which hath forc'd ſuch ill pay to Work-People, that the Country is almoſt ſtarved. Many Freemen go on in a perjur'd practice, in buying Cloth for Aliens, in open defiance of the Ancient Corporation Oath: and to ſpeak plain, the greateſt diſpenſation of Laws have been on this ſide. This being ſo known and notorious a grievance upon the Country, I hope our good Patriots will conſider of ſome eaſe, whilſt, whatſoever is this way got from the Clothier in beating down the price of Cloth, which hath been a third part, is in great meaſure made good by the Country Gentleman's Eſtate, and nothing can preſerve the publick Good in Trade, but a publick and open Market.

4 I come now to the moſt conſiderable part of our Woollen-Manufacture, the Merchandize of it to foreign Nations. And as I have been hitherto ſhewing, upon good grounds, our natural Excellencies from providence, in the Commodity it ſelf, ſo I think the ſame good Providence hath been no leſs bountiful to us in the natural abilities of the *Engliſh* Merchant, who by the Advantage of a good Education, muſt

muſt needs come to a better apprehenſion in the management of Trade for the Publick, than when the laſt diſpoſition of the commanding Commodity of our Nation is left in this manner to a poor Illiterate maker, managed by the private deſign of ſome Factor or Packer. If the Clothier in former days ſold too good a pennyworth, it fell into the Hands of the Merchant, which would take better care than to give it away to a Foreigner; but now the Foreigner hath the Factor and Packer to make as good a pennyworth as they can for him, and what this bewildered Clothier brings down into the Country, is the gage of living there. When all is done and ſaid of the balance of Trade, it centers in a wiſe diſpoſal of our own native Commodities, well brought to Market, and afterwards in buying the Commodities of foreign Nations, that our occaſion requires, at the beſt Hand, which being well done, would make us the moſt glorious Nation in the whole World.

Notwithſtanding what hath been ſaid by Sir *Joſiah Child* in praiſe of the *Dutch*, and leſſening the *Engliſh*, *Pag.* 23. That they are the Wonder of the World, Maſter of the Field in Trade, not unfit-

ly to be termed *Sons of Anack*, and Men of Renown; and the *Engliſh* in Trade are Dwarfs, and Pigmies in Stocks and Experience; the younger Sons of Gentlemen, of not above a Thouſand Pounds Stock to begin withal. I think we have yet one Inſtance of Trade (thro' good Providence) remaining, that will ſhame this Gentleman, being an *Engliſh*-Man, that is managed by the younger Sons of our Gentry, our *Turky* Trade, where the *Dutch* had formerly the Poſſeſſion in Fine Cloth, and now are become Pigmies in thoſe parts: And were but the other parts of our Trade as well preſerved in *Engliſh* Mens Hands at home and abroad, as in Juſtice and Prudence it ought to be, the applauded Excellencies of the *Dutch* would chiefly appear in curing their Herrings. And I think it reflects upon our great *Goliah* in Trade, as he is pleaſed to expreſs it, ſo much to magnify the *Dutch*, when he hath been the chief Competitor with them, (in that conſiderable part of the World) upon the *Engliſh* ſide, where he himſelf is pleaſed to give a large Catalogue of our Loſſes.

Had his care for the Publick been as ſignal as in advancing the *Eaſt-India* Actions, for thoſe many Broad Pieces of Silver

Silver ſent hence, he might have gratified the Nation with a Bark or two of Cinnamon, or a few Nutmegs from the *Eaſt-Indies*, or at leaſt furniſhed thoſe parts ſo far, with the native Commodities of our own Nation, that we had not ſpent time in gazing upon the Natives of thoſe parts that are forc'd to come and fetch them; but I proceed to the matter in hand. The great and weighty Queſtion upon this point to be conſidered is, Whether it be the general Intereſt of *England* to confine the Merchandize of our native Commodities to *Engliſh* Merchants, or to give a general freedom to Aliens to come and buy as they pleaſe, upon equal terms with the *Engliſh* Merchants? To illuſtrate this weighty matter in Trade, I will firſt examine the practice of former times, with the greateſt Care and Candor that poſſible I can, which may give ſome light to the right ſolution of the Queſtion.

The Hance Towns in *Germany* having aſſiſted *Henry* the Third in his Wars, obtains for a recompence great privileges in *England*, to be made a Corporation of Merchants, to have a ſeparate parcel of ground aſſigned them for their Habitation, called the *Still-yard*, near the

Bridge in *London*: The chief ground of their Merchandice in those days, was our *English* Wooll, which they bought, and sent to *Antwerp* and other places, to be Manufactured, paying a considerable Toll out of the Wooll, which in those days was the chief support of the Government,and afterwards they brought part of it back again in Cloth for our service in *England*, with the native Commodities of those parts. *Edward* the Third, (who was the first projector for the good of *England* in Trade) perceiving the advantage that those foreign parts did make by our Wooll, endeavours by Prudent and Successful means to bring it to a Manufacture in *England*; the method he took to effect it was this. *In decimo quarto* of his Reign, *cap.* 1. he made it Felony to carry any Wooll out of his Realms. *Cap.* 2. he made an Act that none should wear any Cloth but such as was made in *England*. *Cap.* 3. he made a strict Act that no Merchant, Foreigner, nor Denizon, nor none other, should bring in any Cloth, by himself or any other, upon forfeiture of the Cloth, and farther to be punished at the King's Will. *Cap.* 4. he put a restraint upon the wearing of Furrs. And *cap.* 5. *Decimo quarto*, he made an

Act

Act that the Cloth-workers of ſtrange Lands, of whatſoever Countrey they be, ſhould come into *England* ſafely and ſurely, and be under his Protection and ſafe Conduct, ſhould chooſe what place they would to dwell in; and to the intent the ſame Cloth-workers ſhould have the greater will to come over, he granted them Franchiſes, ſuch, and as many as would ſuffice them. In the next place, to ſhew the ſincerity of his Intentions, and that his deſign was juſtly laid, he took care that Cloth ſhould be true and honeſtly made; and in order hereunto, *viceſimo quinto cap.* 1. he ſet up an Aulnager for the exact meaſure of Cloth in bredth and length, which was to be ſworn to do his Office; and to compleat the bravery of his Deſign, and ſhew the ſtrength of his Judgment, he eſtabliſh'd the Company of *Merchant-Adventurers* of *England*. There could be no fear now of ſucceſs from this good Foundation: But there appears no vigorous footſteps of its promotion until *Edward* the Fourth, in whoſe Reign there were ſeveral good Statutes made for the encouragement of the Goodneſs and true making of Cloth; but that which is moſt obſervable, he farther endeavoured to corroborate the *Engliſh* Merchants, and

and queſtions the Charter of the foreign Merchants of the *Still-yard*, who had got the great command of our Trade, and were look'd upon with an ill Eye by the *Engliſh*, moſt that was Imported or Exported coming in their Bottoms: But they got off at this time by the payment of a good Summ of Money, and upon this condition likewiſe, that they ſhould colour no Foreigner's Goods.

Henry the Seventh in the firſt Year of his Reign, *cap.* 2. to favour the Merchant-Adventurers of *England*, made an Act that Aliens made Denizons ſhould pay the ſame duties as if they were Aliens, adding for a reaſon in the Statute, that when they had gained great Riches, they conveyed themſelves into their own Countries where they were naturally born, to the great impoveriſhing of this Realm; which ſaid Statute was corroborated *anno undecimo Hen.* VII. *cap.* 14. where theſe Merchants of the *Still-yard* were no ways excepted.

And in *tertio Hen.* VII. *cap.* 7. there was an excellent Act made, that no Denizon or Stranger ſhould enter any Goods but in the Name of the true owner of the Goods, upon forfeiture of the Goods, and Impriſonment, and to be

be fined at the King's pleaſure: Which Act of Parliament was renewed *primo Eliz. cap.* 11. and I think its Execution would be of excellent Service to this Nation.

But in the long Reign of *Henry* the Eighth, our Native Intereſt of *England* began to loſe ground again; and in the 22d. Year of his Reign, *cap.* 8. there was an Act made, that Denizons ſhould pay the ſame duties that Aliens did; but the Merchants of the *Still-yard* were exempt, as appears by the proviſoe of the Statute. After this point was gain'd upon the *Engliſh* Merchants by their Bribes to the Miniſters of State, they prevail'd farther, and in the 32d. year of *Henry* VIII. *cap.* 16. by that Act Aliens were bound by and unto all the Laws of the Realm; but Aliens duties were deſtroyed for a time by the King's Proclamation, as appears by that Statute; which had by this time ſo far prevail'd, that theſe Merchants of the *Still-yard* ſhipt off Fourty four Thouſand Cloths, and our Merchants not two Thouſand, and other Circumſtances of the Nation were very much out of order, a parallel of our preſent times. Our Affairs being at this low ebb, the native intereſt of *England* receiveth life again

gain by the happy succession of *Edward* the Sixth, who with great difficulty did much in turning the Scale of Affairs, and setling of Trade upon its right Basis. The Merchant-Adventurers of *England* begin now to take courage, (the Bribes of the *Still-yard* Merchants finding no admission in this Government) and in the beginning of the Year 1552. in the fifth year of *Edward* the Sixth, they put in their Complaint to the Counsel against them, to which the Merchants of the *Still-yard* put in their Answer upon the Eighteenth day of *January* in the same Year, and upon the Twenty fifth the Answer was delivered to some Learned Counsel to look and over-see it: Upon the Eighteenth day of *February*, the Merchant-Adventurers put in their Replication to the *Still-yard*'s Answer; and upon the Twenty third a Decree was made by the Board, That upon Knowledge and Information of their Charters they had found, *First*, that they were no sufficient Corporation. *Secondly*, that their Numbers, Names, and Nations were unknown. *Thirdly*, that when they had forfeited their Liberties, King *Edward* the Fourth did restore them, on this condition, That they should colour no Strangers Goods,

Goods, which they had done: For theſe conſiderations, Sentence was given that they had forfeited their Liberties, and were to be no more than Strangers.

Upon the Twenty eighth (loſing no time in this important Affair) there came Ambaſſadors from *Hamburgh*, *Lubeck*, and the Regent of *Flanders*, to ſpeak upon the behalf of the *Still yard* Merchants, ſo unwilling were they to part with this Intereſt: And upon the Second of *March* the Anſwer for the Ambaſſadors of the *Still-yard* was committed to the Lord Chancellor, the two Secretaries, Sir *Robert Bowes* and Sir *John Baker*, Judge *Montague Griffith*, Solicitors *Goſnold*, *Goodrick*, and *Brookes*; by which it is evident that it was thought a matter of weight. It remain'd under conſideration untill the Firſt day of *May*, and then the *Still-yard* Men received their Anſwer, which was to confirm the former Judgment of the Counſel, as is *verbatim* expreſt in the Journals of *Edward* the Sixth, in the Hiſtory of the *Reformation*. So now the Merchant-Adventurers of *England*, (having ſtemm'd the Tide againſt this Foreign Intereſt) goes cheartully on in the management of the Cloth Trade: And in *October* the Third following, it is thus expreſt by

by the Hand Writing of *Edward* the Sixth; *Becauſe I had a Pay of* 48000 l. *to be paid in* December, *and had as yet but* 14000 l. *beyond Sea to pay it withall, the Merchants did give me a loan of* 40000 l. *to be paid by them the laſt of* December, *and to be repaid again by me the laſt of* March. The manner of levying the Loan was of the Cloths, after the rate of twenty Shillings a Cloth; for they carried off at this Shipping 40000 broad Cloths: This Grant was confirmed the Fourth day of this Month, by a Company aſſembled of 300 Merchant-Adventurers.

After the Reign of this good Prince *Edward*, when *Philip* came to the Crown, theſe *Still-yard* Merchants made their Application again, and were ſeconded by the endeavours of King *Philip*, notwithſtanding all which, they could never prevail to ſet up this Company again; which was evident demonſtration that it was againſt the true Intereſt of *England*. The Company of Merchant-Adventurers encreas'd the Cloth Trade ſo far that Sir *Walter Raleigh* tells you in his time that they ſhipp'd of Eighty thouſand Broad Cloths a year, and the value of Fifty thouſand in Cottons, Kerſies, *&c.*

The

The firſt alteration (that I find) from this good Foundation laid in the Reign of *Edward* the Sixth, was in the twentieth of King *James*, where the Statute *anno quinto & ſexto Edw.* VI. *cap.* 7. was repealed, which gave a free liberty for buying of Wooll: And as our *Civil-Wars* grew on, the Execution of Law ceas'd, and I think, in the year ſixty the Company of Merchant-Adventurers were invaded in their Liberties, and Interlopers let in to Trade, which by degrees prevailed farther, (as in the days of *Henry* the Eighth) and in 25 *Caroli* II. Aliens duties were deſtroyed, which gave a full power to foreign Intereſt; ſo that at this time there are not above four or five of that Company that deal in Cloth; as it here appears by experience and plain matter of Fact, that theſe foreign Merchants in the enjoyment of the like Privileges in Trade with the *Engliſh*, by degrees got the whole into their Hands, as likewiſe by our *Turky* Trade, that where the *Engliſh* Merchants are ſupported, we out-do the *Dutch*.

Upon a near conſideration of the matter, it will appear to be impoſſible to be otherwiſe; it muſt be owned that the native Subjects of any place by ſeveral little ties of Relation, Obligations

of

of Friendſhip, Experience of their own courſe of Trade, and the natural Kindneſs that all places have for their own Fraternity more than Strangers, the advantage of freſh Goods in little parcels upon every opportunity, will have an advantage upon Foreigners when they ſtand upon equal Terms. Beſides, many that ſend for Goods over this way, have the benefit of retailing them abroad; But the greateſt advantage is in their own Goods ſent hither, which are ſold in a kind of Retail way, and at the utmoſt advantage of our Markets, under colour that they are *Engliſh* Men's Goods, who as heartily contend for their Intereſt as their own, the increaſe of their Commiſſions ariſing from that conſideration.

The Argument that was uſed in former times againſt the Merchants of the *Still-Yard* was, that moſt of the Goods Imported and Exported came in their Bottoms; and ſo long as the Merchandice of our native Commodities is managed by Aliens, many Merchants having Intereſt themſelves in Shipping, little of it will be carried in our own Bottoms, which is not the leaſt amongſt many loſſes to our own Nation.

I might here give many reaſons for ſecuring the privileges of our own native Commodities to our own Subjects, upon the ſcore of Juſtice, Prudence, and Intereſt; the right of the *Golden-Fleece* doth admit of no diſpute, being limited to us by the diſtinguiſhing bounds of a River.

If there is a neceſſity of an *Engliſh* Merchant, in prudence he ought to be ſupported; as in *France* the younger Sons of the Gentry depend upon the Army, ſo in *England* upon the Law and Merchandice, a more noble and independent Imployment. Our late management, I muſt confeſs, diſcovered another Judgment, as if we had a mind to alter the Scene from Merchandice to Soldiery.

Upon the ſcore of Intereſt, it can't be leſs advantage to the Nation than Twenty *per cent.* in keeping up the price of our own Goods, the benefit of the Merchandice of our Cloth, and its Effects at home in Goods, beſides the leſſening the Honour and Eſteem of our Nation in carrying on our Trade in ſo mean and ſervile a manner.

The right method to be taken to retrieve our loſſes and ſecure our Privileges, I think, ought to be the great

and speedy care of the best Patriot of our Country; to the effecting of which I will give my weak opinion, in submission to better Judgments, following the Practice of our Ancestors.

The first thing that I humbly propose is, the repealing the Statute of 25 *Caroli* II. that destroyed double Duties, which by the Statute of *Hen.* VII. *anno primo, cap.* 2. and 12 *Caroli* II. were to be paid by Aliens and Denizons.

And for the good Execution of those Statutes, and to secure the Customs to the King, as likewise to give light which way the Trade of the Nation is carried. A strict observation of the Statutes of *Hen.* VII. *anno* 3. *cap.* 7. and *primo Eliz. cap.* 11. Statutes I think in force, which enjoyn the entry of all Goods in the name of the true Proprietor of the Goods, upon forfeiture of the Goods, and Imprisonment, and to be Fined at the King's pleasure in the one Statute, and the forfeiture of the Goods in the other, would be of excellent use and advantage in many particulars to our Nation: It is a vain thing to seem rich when we are not so.

In the next place the Incorporating the Company of Merchant-Adventurers of *England* by Act of Parliament in the strictest

ſtricteſt manner that poſſibly can be contrived to keep out Aliens in the Woollen-Manufacture, and comprehending as many *Engliſh* Merchants as our own Nation will afford, putting it out of the power of the Government of the Company to limit the Shipping of our Woollen Manufacture, from at leaſt four of our chief Cities in *England*, or more if the wiſdom of the Parliament ſhall think fit.

And in the laſt place, which is moſt material, to incorporate the *Spaniſh* and *Portugal* Trade; this Trade was incorporated in the beginning of King *James* the Firſt, but ſoon altered again, as appears by the Statute 3 *Jacobi, cap.* 6. but in thoſe days our Trade thither in the Woollen-Manufacture was inconſiderable, and the payment of Aliens Duties was check enough upon Foreigners, but now it is become the moſt conſiderable place we have in Bays, Serges, Perpetuana's, Sayes, and all our new Drapery, which our Statutes make no mention of, and from hence hath ſprung the great plenty of Money theſe late Years; tho' we have got the leaſt ſhare, there is twenty Thouſand Pounds a week turned at *Exceter*, as I am credibly told, in Serges, vaſt quantities of

Bays made at *Colcheſter*, and other places, *Norwich* Stuffs, abundance of Hoſe in all parts of the Nation, the greateſt part of which depend upon this Trade, and the Returns altogether as excellent, Pieces of Eight, Bars of Silver, *Spaniſh* Wooll, Cocheneel, Jorne, *&c.* no whiffling Commodities. Our Nation hath not loſt leſs than five hundred Thouſand Pounds a Year this twenty Years, by not Incorporating that Trade; which I hope the *Engliſh* are yet able to manage.

We have hereby in great meaſure ſet up *France* in Merchandice, and enricht *Holland*.

A Merchant in *France* hath had a free liberty to ſend over to an Agent of his in *London*, (whoſe ſervice was readily courted by an *Engliſh* Man) French-Wines, Brandy, Silks, Druggets, Linnens, Paper, Thread, Ribbons, Gawzes, *&c.* which ſhall be ſold off at the beſt advantage of our Markets, and as the Moneys come in, ſhall ſend over, by order, to another Servant or Apprentice of his in *Spain*, Bays, Serges, Perpetuana's, *&c.* as cheap as any *Engliſh* Merchant can ſend, and from thence he ſhall receive in *France* Pieces of Eight, *Spaniſh* Wooll, Cocheneel, Jorne, *&c.* And hath not this

this been a Platform of a good Trade? His Agent in *London*, to gratify his Maſter, will ſend him over ſome Packs of long Wooll, (which is eaſily done by a little private diſcourſe with a Wooll-Brogger) to be Manufactured ſo much cheaper in *France*, whilſt this *Engliſh* Merchant, in the high float of his Spirits, in promoting the ſale of his Clarets, is many times as rich in his own fancy as if all the Goods that went through his Hands were his own. And tho' our Manufacturers by this means have come to be impoveriſh'd, yet once a day they have brought themſelves to a habit of Riches too, at the expence of a Noggin of Brandy. And thus we have jogg'd on, turning our Wooll into Wine and Brandy, and the Pieces of Eight center'd in *France*.

The *Dutch* Merchant ſends over his Spicery, Hollans, Madder, Whalebone, *&c.* and as it is ſold off under *Engliſh* colours, and the Money received, ſuch Goods as *London* beſt affords, ſhall be ſent directly back, and what Serges *Exceter* affords, the Tuckers there, for their little advantage of three Shillings a Serge in Tucking, and leſs vanity to be thought Merchants, adventure them over to *Holland*, white, and as ſoon as

received, and liked, Bills come away presently upon their Correspondents in *London*, whilst the advantage of Dying, Tilletting, Packing, *&c.* go to their own Nation, and then sent for *Spain*, or the *East-Indies*.

How can an *English* Merchant support himself in his Station in this Contest with the cheap workmanship of *France*, and the frugal living, and low Interest of *Holland*; whilst he meets his own Goods, which are divided into three Squadrons, contending which shall out-do each other in cheapness? whilst their native Mother *England*, (by this unhappy contest abroad, and divided Interest of her Sons at home) tho' naturally very Rich, is become very Poor.

5. I come now, in the last place, to consider our Woollen-Manufacture in its Effects from abroad, the more or less Consumption of which, is, in many particulars either the forwarding or the retarding of the Consumption of our Cloth abroad, wherein, I think, we have been very much wanting to our selves. Sir *Josiah Child* tells us, *Pag.* 161, If we will engage other Nations to Trade with us, we must receive from them the Commodities of their Countries, as well as send them ours; where

where I take it, he makes the Conſumption of our own native Commodities to be our chiefeſt care, as indeed it is; which is to be forwarded by the encouragement of its proper effects at home; which is a poſition directly contrary to the Gentleman's practice, and enough of it ſelf, if well conſidered, to deſtroy the *Eaſt-India* Company.

This matter falls under conſideration chiefly in theſe two particulars; Firſt, in laying our Cuſtoms, and then in governing our Habits and Faſhions.

The prudent proportioning our Impoſitions upon foreign Commodities is a nice point in the Intereſt of Trade, and ought to be well weighed and digeſted.

I ſhall here only offer to conſideration (for brevity's ſake) the Linnens of *Flanders* and *Germany*, which I take to be the moſt natural and uſeful Effects of our Woollen-Manufacture, too great a part of the revenue of the Nation being at this time ſpent upon Linnens, as I fear. Woollen and Linnen are the two Maſter Wheels in Trade. The Company of Merchant-Adventurers ſhipt off to *Flanders* and *Germany* Eighty thouſand Broad Cloths a year, in the

beginning of King *James* the Firſt, during which time, I am aſſured by good evidence, that our Conſumption of their Linnens bore an equal proportion. If you diſcourſe an ancient Mercer, he will tell you that where he now cuts an Ell of fine *Flanders*, Holland, he then cut twenty.

England and *Flanders* are neareſt of Kin in a fertile, rich Soyl of any two places, and thereby able to bear the greater number of Manufacturers, which makes the Conſumption the one as natural to Linnens, as the other to Woollen, and both Commodities of equal uſe and ſervice.

The Duty paid upon any Commodity is an addition to its price; where one Half-penny in a Shilling unequally laid is enough to turn the Scale, and beat one Commodity out of uſe that comes in a near competition with another of the ſame kind: No conſideration to wary Buyers but the merit and the cheapneſs of the Commodity.

The Fine Linnens of *Flanders* and *Germany* in this particular hath come in competition theſe many years with the Callicoes and Muzlings of the *Eaſt-Indies*, and the fine Dowlaſs and Gawzes of *France*, the midling Linnens of *Germany*, with

with the narrow Dowlaſs and Canvas of *France*, the one the Effect of our Manufacture, the other of our Bullion: Which of theſe ought to be preferred in the Leviathan of our Cuſtoms ſeems no queſtion. And yet you will find upon our Book of Rates all the Linnens of *Flanders* ſtand like a Beakon upon a Hill, above all the reſt, charged with Five Pence an Ell Cuſtom, and the Fine Dowlaſs of *France* not at full one Half-penny, and the Callicoes of the *Eaſt-Indies* but at Ten Pence a Piece; which hath continued ever ſince 12 *Caroli* II. as if at that time we had been in the Confederacy with the King of *France*, for the impoveriſhing of *Flanders*, we to put a ſtop to their Commerce, thereby to encourage the other to buy the better penny-worths in their Towns, (which, I think, hath had a fair ſtem at that rate) we ought in Juſtice to change the Scale; which poſſibly may be ſo lucky to put the Land-Marks right again. *Nec Lex eſt juſtior ulla*, &c.

The other diſadvantage in this particular hath been the government of our Faſhions, the force of which is not to be withſtood with our Ladies. How far we have run after the Modes of *France*, when ſome of our own Artificers

cers in Druggets have been forc'd to employ ſome *French* Merchant to put them off, which is true in Fact, I need not ſet forth. The *French* King was well enough in his Politicks when he ſent over the pleaſant Shooe-Horn to draw on his Intereſt in this particular, and as remarkable too, that a Government that dealt ſo much in Linnens, ſhould be yet wanting in preferring that ſort that promoted its own Intereſt. Habits in former days were governed by Laws, in the days of *Henry* the Eighth, which received no alteration until the firſt of King *James* the Firſt, and then repealed. But I perſwade my ſelf there is a more Eaſy and Generous way that may effect it, and that a fine Hollan Night-rayle will not be miſbecoming our Ladies, which will bear a good piece of Needle-work Lace of their own making, without quarrelling at its weight; or if foreign be more acceptable, nothing will ſhew better than a good piece of Flanders; and I hope its ſervice will not be its prejudice, whilſt it will out-wear three of Muzling, and afterwards be a diſcreet and ſubſtantial piece of Charity, with a little of the Lady's contrivance and good huſwifry; whilſt the other diſcovers its lean-

leanneſs and uncharitableneſs at its firſt Muſter, and there is no foundation for Charity, were the diſpoſition of the Lady never ſo much inclined. Alas! our poor Widows Tears ſpring now from their Nakedneſs, inſtead of Grief for their Loſs in good *Dorcas* that made them Garments; and many of our great Ladies Names are of no longer duration than theſe *Eaſt-India* Commodities they deal in.

Having now been very tedious in my deſign, I will leave the farther incouragement of this noble Commodity of ours to the Winter Thoughts of our Ladies, ſince its late improvement in variety of Fancy may fairly court their favour.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS UPON THE New Diſcourſe OF TRADE.

Quære de novis——

HAving troubled the World in this kind, from an apprehenſion to my ſelf that this Gentleman was impoſing upon the Nation a new belief in Trade, as our preſent *Socinians* are in Religion, I thought it farther incumbent upon me to conſider the ſtrength of his Arguments; wherein I will proceed with all poſſible ſubmiſſion to the greatneſs of the Author, and brevity in favour of the Reader.

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He tells us in the end of his Preface, that he hath expos'd his Conceptions to the publick Censure, with a confidence that they will be received, and honour'd with a publick Sanction, and past into Laws; and thus begins his Book.

The prodigious Increase of the Nether-Landers, *in their domestick and foreign Trade, Riches and multitude of Shiping, is the Envy of the present, and may be the Wonder of all future Generations.*

Quid dignum tanto fecit hic promissor——

He here sets out the Riches of *Holland* in ample and extensive Demonstrations, and backs it on with an addition, in several subsequent Expressions in his Book: They are *Samson*'s and *Goliah*'s in trade; Sons of *Anach*, Masters of the Field; like a prevailing Army that scorns to build Castles, and Fortresses as we do by our Act of Navigation; and to advance their Glory herein, he tells us that we are but Dwarfs, and Pigmies in Stocks and Experience, *&c.* And from this, he very much incourageth the practice of *Holland* amongst us; to have Merchants in our greatest Counsels of State, and War; Law-merchants to decide differences in Trade; the law of Gavelkind

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that all Children may have a like Portion, *&c.* and *Pag.* 46, recommends the throwing open all our Privileges, to ſet our Doors wide-open to all our Native Commodities, Coals, *&c.* without the leaſt Duty, deſtroying the Liberties of Corporations, where Artificers have a greater privilege than Strangers: The Statute of the fifth of *Elizabeth*, where an Apprenticeſhip is a Privilege, throwing open all Companies that do not Trade in Joint-Stock, and giving free Liberty in all Corporations, leveling all Bounds that our Anceſtors ſet up, who were Souldiers, Hunts-men, and Herds-men, and knew not Trade; which is but a new thing in *England*, all this to make way for an Act of Naturalization, which ſeems to be ready drawn, to make us Tenants in Common, in Trade; herein ſweetning his deſign with theſe good Effects, that we ſhall keep the Manſion-Houſe, and have Thirty or Forty Years Purchaſe for the Grainge; and this is the deſign he drives at.

I muſt confeſs, conſidering the remiſneſs of our late Reigns, how we have lain open, in our *Spaniſh* Trade, *Flanders*, and *Germany*; and been ſo kind, to make no Difference between an *Engliſh* Merchant, and a *Dutch*, only the latter living frugal-

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ly in *Holland*: I am of the Gentleman's Opinion, that they are vaſtly Rich in Treaſure, and are deſirous of an Act of Naturalization, to make ſome Purchaſes in Land, and the more confirm'd from the many Brokers in the City of *London*, that are zealouſly ſolicitous, to bring the matter to bear; of which City, as once of *Rome*, it may be truly ſaid, *Abi, venalis civitas, mox peritura ſi emptorem invenias.* All run into Commiſſion, *omnia Roma cum pretio.* The Gentleman tells us in his Preface, that were they freed from their *French* Fears, they would be worſe than Taskmaſters over us in Trade: conſidering their Treaſure, I can't blame their Fears, being ſo near at Hand to the *French*, and all that ſtaggers my Belief in the vaſtneſs of their Riches, is the ſmallneſs of their quota of Men of War, and their Forces in *Flanders*, which by this Account ſhould be ſo much more than ours: And ſhould I endeavour to conceal our own Poverty, the four Years Votes of Parliament, will condemn my Folly, which hath been made up with Petitions to cut of Entails to pay Debts, and raiſe Portions for younger Children; conſidering with my ſelf, the multitudes of Entails that have been cut off, my Melancholy leads me

to

to a Doubt, where there would be buyers, all thoſe being conſiderable Eſtates, that would bear the Charge of an Act of Parliament, to part with them, not in the leaſt thinking then of the Bank of *Amſterdam*: But my Inclination ſtill leads me to ſet about Good husbandry, which will encreaſe our Flock, to maintain our own Privileges, which will make more of our Wooll: to put a ſtop to our extravagant Expence in the *Eaſt-India* Commodities, and Flood of Claret; and we may yet ſave the Grainge for the eldeſt Son, which was the deſign of his Anceſtors, at leaſt ſecure it from Strangers. To have a Neighbour ſo near the Manſion Houſe will be very incommodious; and if it fall into the Hands of Aliens, it will be an aggravation.

The Gentleman, as I apprehend the Matter, hath a Wooll by the Ear in his Argument, of our Poverty; he can't well hold it, nor yet dares he looſe it; it is very neceſſary to be argued, to introduce his Deſign, upon one Hand; but upon the other, it may be a means to put us upon Enquiry after the true Cauſes of our Poverty; and that will lead to the *Eaſt-India-Company*, the warm waſt of Muſlings, and Callicoes, bought with our Bullion; ſo that in his Preface

having given a true Catalogue of our Losses in Trade in fifteen Particulars, and then told us, that he knew a great many more that we have lost, which he forbears telling, fearing his Porch would be too big; and for other Reasons: In six Leaves farther, in the same Porch, he tells us, *We have now much more Money in* England, *than we had twenty Years past.* This, like the answer of the Oracle, bears a double Construction; but the way that he would have it understood, is very plain, because he fortifies the belief of it with somany Convincing Arguments, which I doubt are a little fallacious too, which I will here give the Reader the trouble to Consider.

1. We give generally now one third more Money with Apprentice, than we did twenty Years past.

There are many Instances of the Truth of this, to *Turkey Merchants*, who give considerable Advantages to their Apprentices abroad; where in a plentiful Employment, it is in part made good by the end of their Time; and what the Gentleman observes, *Pag.* 87, that many Merchants that are Free of no Companies, can have as much Money with Apprentices, as any that are Free of Companies, I humbly conceive is a mistake.

miſtake. But I think there's a greater Reaſon, which beſpeaks the Poverty of the Nation, that this comes from, which is the ſcarcity of good Places for Apprentices; and the *Turkey-Merchants* make their Prices according to the Plenty of their Offers, as in all other Affairs.

If two thirds of the Merchandice of our Native Commodities, be got into the Hands of Aliens, managed by Commiſſion, out of this here is little room for Apprentices, and leſs Incouragement: If there were Three Hundred Merchant-Adventurers, that met together, the whole Society was much greater, where now we have ſcarce Ten that deal in Cloth; this muſt needs make an Odds in this Affair, whilſt the younger Sons of our Gentry of *England*, are ſtill growing up, and then the management of the *Eaſt-India* Trade, is too ſecret to be taught to an Apprentice, tho' they have carried off too many young Men, to manage their Affairs in that hot Climate, that never came back.

2. We Ship off one third Part more of the Manufactures, than we did twenty Years paſt, which is a Cauſe, as well as a Proof, of our Increaſe of Money.

The Gentleman tells us, *Pag.* 128, that thro' the plenty of our Wooll carried into *Holland*, it is as Cheap there within a ſmall Matter, as in *England*. And if our Manufactures are ſhipt off in great plenty, upon the Account of Foreigners, which was formerly wholly upon *Engliſh* Mens Accounts; I think this beſpeaks our Poverty, but I am ſure it's a miſtake in the General.

3. Houſes new built in *London*, yield twice the Rent as they did before the Fire.

The Truth of this is only ſecur'd by the Taverns, and Coffee-houſes; which ſeems to me by the great reſort, to have a greater tendency to Poverty, than Riches.

4 The Speedy and coſtly Buildings of *London*, is a convincing, and to Strangers an amazing Argument of the plenty, and late Increaſe of Money in *England*.

The Gentleman I am ſure in this Particular, will be ſo Ingenious to own his Miſtake; as to the ſtrength of his Argument, he proves that we have now much more Money in *England* than we had twenty Years paſt, and brings the fine Houſes of *London*, that were built five and Twenty, and eight and Twenty Years paſt to prove it; but I will take no Advantage of the Miſtake.

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As to the ſpeed, I think they made more haſt than good ſpeed; for near the *Exchange*, there lately fell down a conſiderable Houſe into the Street.

The Coſt and Glory of Brick Buildings, was the Scorn of Former Times; come let us pull down our Bricks, and build with hewn Stone, and he that ſtands amaz'd at the Charge, muſt be a Stranger indeed to the way of doing it.

5. We have now more than double the Quantity of Merchants Shiping, we had twenty Years paſt.

But it may be a little doubted, that they are wanting in Quality, whilſt they are ſhipping off Aliens Goods.

6. The courſe of our Trade, from the increaſe of our Money, is ſtrangely altered, within theſe twenty Years moſt Payments from Merchants, and Shopkeepers, being made with ready Money, whereas Formerly the courſe of our general Trade run at Three, Six, Nine, Twelve, and Eighteen Months Time: I think this is laid ſo wide, that it is impoſſible to be reconcil'd; and I ſhall make a difference between the Preface and the Book. *Pag.* 7 and 8, in the firſt Book, in recommending the transferring Bill of Debt from one Man, to an other; to

prove the need of it, he tells us that having ſold our Goods, it is Six, Nine, and Twelve Months time, before the Money can be recovered, and that if it is conſiderable, it is a good Mans work all the Year to follow Vintners and Shopkeepers for Money: and I think the *Eaſt-India*-Company to advance ready money for Goods allows Six Months diſcount to be Equal with other Trades, ſo that to my own Knowledge, nothing but inverting the words, can ſet this right. And ſince the laſt bequeath of a Will, by Law, ſhall take place of the former, when the ſame thing is given twice, the Book in this caſe muſt likewiſe take place of the Preface, tho' we are poorer by it.

Pag. 11. He goes on in the Proof of the increaſe of our Riches, from a longer time; and if this be doubted, let us ask the Aged whether Five Hundred Pounds Portion with a Daughter Sixty Years paſt, was not eſteem'd more than Two Thouſand Pounds now; and if there are not more Men upon the *Exhange* worth Ten thouſand Pounds, than were then worth one Thouſand Pounds.

That there is a greater plenty of Money in *England*, than there was Sixty Years paſt, is not to be doubted: and we may have more Money than we had

Twenty

Twenty Years paſt, and yet compar'd with the *Dutch*, may be poor; for the increaſe of the new Drapery, hath brought home far greater quantities of Treaſure theſe late years from the *Weſt-Indies*, than we had Thirty Years Paſt.

But I am fully ſatisfied, that our late great Portions, and prodigious Eſtates, got by ſome particular Men, is no Proof of our Riches in the General; and that, where there is one ſmall Portion given now, there was Ten given Forty Years paſt; and twice as many Merchants worth Two or Three Thouſand Pounds, than we have now; and if theſe great Portions, have ſwallowed up the Small, we may be Poorer in the General, tho' Rich in Particulars.

Pag. 12. We have now one Hundred Coaches, for One we had formerly, which is a convincing Argument of Riches. I think I can balance this Argument. About Twenty or Thirty Years paſt you could ſcarce meet a man in the City, but had a Knot of Ribbons upon his Shoulder, which was an undeniable Argument of an excreſcence of Riches, and an overplus of Money in the Pocket; and now you ſhall ſcarce ſee one Man in a Thouſand that hath any Ribbon upon his Coat, which I think as plainly argues our Po-

verty: One Hundred to One, I must confess is a little large. Whilst the multitude in *London* make, an Admiration; the rareness of a Coach in the Country, doth the same. In the Journals of *Edward* the Six, I find it thus advis'd by him, that after the Parliament was up, except some few that should wait upon him, that all the rest of the Nobility should go into the Country, and see the Laws put in Execution, and Justice done; whose good and great Example, would have a great influence towards a regular Nation.

The Fashion of Coach keeping sprang up about Forty Years past, when the old course of Trade was altered, that maintain'd a Credit and Goodness in our Native Commodities; when Interlopers got in, and by false over-strain'd Goods, under the shelter of our old Reputation, got a little extraordinary Profit upon a sudden; Bodice-makers, and Glovers turn'd Merchants, in our Common-wealth Government; and Cloth-drawers soon became our Capital Merchants by Commission, and upstart Pride being always most aspiring (according to our Proverb) this lead into Coaches.

Our old substantial Merchants being laid up in their Winter Quarters, their Stocks gave a Foundation to Bankers, and Scriveners,

Scriveners. Our new traders by their extraordinary Profit, at firſt drove on in Trade anſwerable to their new Wheels, and ſoon wanted Money to anſwer Occaſions; by which our Bankers and Scriveners, had ſoon got moſt Greaſe to their Wheels, being favoured by the neceſſity of the Court, which a little over run, and carried ſome of their Maſters into the *Mint* and *White-friars*, which hath unhappily perplext our Gazettes with the repeated Summons of the Creditors of *Backwell*, *Vinor*, and *Benjamin Hinton*, and a multitude of others. To this ſprung up a Coach in the Air from Stockjobbing, one hundred Pounds Principal ſwell'd to ſeven: theſe Horſes out-run the Interloper and Banker, and thought it impoſſible to keep down this ſwelling Profit. And to make good the weight of the Gentleman's Reaſon; up ſtarts the Cloth-factor with his Equipage, and Splendor, not inferior to the reſt, having brought his Maſters the Clothiers, to come part of the way to *London* on Foot, and the reſt in a Waggon; and yet more ſhow than Subſtance, I doubt, in this Reaſon.

The Gentleman further purſueth his Point, by telling us, that there are now more Keys, and Wharfs, for landing of Goods in London, in his own Remembrance,

brance, by one third Part. I am well ſatisfied in the Truth of this, that the greateſt Part of the Trade of *England*, is drawn to *London*, and being ſo it is no true Argument of our Riches in the general. In Sir *Walter Raleigh*'s time, the Merchants of *Ipſwich*, were the great buyers of Cloth, and doubtleſs many other places were greater Places of Trade, which are now the more Impoveriſh'd for want of it; and I think this is a Point that deſerves the moſt ſerious Conſideration. I am not againſt keeping up the greatneſs of the City of *London*, as our Metropolitan City, but yet we are all equal Subjects of the ſame Government: I am likewiſe as well ſatisfied, that there is a neceſſity of a Company of Merchants, to preſerve our own Privileges, but ſtill the more Comprehenſive the better; and that it is a great Injuſtice to the Publick, that Companies ſhall have a Power to reſtrain the ſhipping of our own Native Commodities, to thoſe Places that they pleaſe.

The Strength of our Nation is not in the City of *London*, but its vaſt Bigneſs. One of our misfortunes, in the firſt place is being ſupply'd with People from the Country; it is too much depopulating; it likewiſe harbours ſo many factions from all

all Parts, that it will be always uneaſie to Monarchy; and if a Sickneſs ſhould come, it is an amazing Conſideration.

The Gentleman in the whole drift of this Deſign, endeavours to ſhew that the Life of our Trade, is from the Government of the Intereſt of our Money, this is his *cauſa cauſans*. He tells us *Pag.* 9, that if Intereſt of Money was reduc'd with us to Three *per Cent.* as it is in *Holland*, it would in a ſhort time render us as Rich, and conſiderable in Trade as they now are: and to make good his Argument from experience, he ſuggeſts the low Condition of our Nation, before there was any Law to limit Intereſt, before the Year 1545, that limited it to Ten *per Cent.* at which time the Merchants were mean and few; and that afterwards in the Year 1635, within Ten Years after, Intereſt was brought down to Eight *per Cent.* there were more Merchants to be found upon the *Exchange* worth each one Thouſand Pounds and upwards, than were in the former Days, *viz.* before the Years 1600, to be found worth One Hundred Pounds each: I think I am able to prove a miſtake upon the Gentleman, in this particular; in the Year 1553, which was Forty Seven Years before 1600, there met together Three Hundred Merchant-adventurers

and

and lent King *Edward* the Sixth Forty Thouſand Pounds, and rais'd the Money by a Leavy of Twenty Shillings a Cloth, for every Cloth that was then ſhipt off, which amounted to Forty Thouſand Cloths; now if you divide theſe Cloths equally, I think it is one Hundred Twenty Five Cloths each, which were not leſs Worth in thoſe Days than Twelve Hundred and Fifty Pounds, and it can't be reaſonably ſuppos'd that a Merchant ſhould adventure above half his Eſtate at one ſhipping; ſo that here viſibly appears Three Hundred Merchants in thoſe Days in the Cloth Trade, worth Two Thouſand Pounds and upwards; which was but ſeven Years after the firſt Law about Intereſt of Money.

And in thoſe Days when Intereſt was ſo rare and not reckoned Lawful, it is very ſtrange it ſhould have ſo great an effect. This Gentleman's private Intereſt is ſo great in the *Eaſt-India* Trade (where one Hundred Pounds Principal, ſhall reap the Benefit of Five Hundred Pounds at Intereſt) that I doubt he is no competent Judge of the publick intereſt of the Nation, and no wonder that he preſſes ſo hard to gain the Paſs.

I ſhall

I ſhall not ſpend time in a long Diſcourſe upon this Subject, being very much of Opinion with the Honourable Author, that the paying Intereſt for ſo much Money in Trade, as we now do, is very prejudicial to the publick Good of the Nation; that where there was One Hundred Pounds in Trade Forty Years paſt at Intereſt, there is now one Thouſand, as may be fairly grounded upon the late Growth of our Bankers, and Scriveners: And I think it may be ſaid of Intereſt as was well ſaid of Pleaſure, *commendat rarior uſus.* But the Attempt that was made to put a ſtop to it by a Law, *in quinto & ſexto Edwardi* VI. *Cap.* 20. prov'd to be prejudicial, and was repeal'd in 13 *Eliz. Cap.* 8. and the Matter referr'd back to 37. *Hen.* VIII. *Cap.* 9. that limited it to Ten *per Cent.* It is much better in ſome Caſes to pay Intereſt for Money and command the buying of Commodities, than to take them at a long Day of Payment, which I take to be the Caſe of thoſe times: I think likewiſe that the preſent Limitation of our Laws, doth very well anſwer the Commands of the Scriptures, againſt biting Intereſt, five *per Cent.* bearing an equal Porportion to Twenty Years Purchaſe in Lands, at which Rate upon good Security, Money

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is eaſily procur'd; nay, as my Author ſays, at four, by a Security. That I much doubt.

That the Trade of our Nation is in very bad Circumſtances, is plainly ſeen, by all thinking Men: This Gentleman preſcribes in a Mountebank-manner this *Pan pharmacon*, for curing all Diſtempers in Trade, even Exportation of Wooll, *Pag.* 128. I muſt confeſs, that if all was done in Trade, that he preſcribes, nay, if we continue Trade as this three or four Years paſt, with all our Privileges thrown open to *Holland*, there is a neceſſity of lowering the Intereſt of Money, or our Trade will be gone; for if one Man hath a free Liberty to trade, paying but three *per Cent.* with another that pays five or ſix, the low Intereſt will in time get the Trade from the high; but if we make up our Bounds, and preſerve our own Privileges, we need not lower the Price of Money by a Law, or fear the *Dutch* taking the Trade from us, if we have a great plenty of Money more than is abſolutely needful in Trade; its plenty will fall its Price, without a Law, and low Intereſt is certainly the effect of Riches, and not the Cauſe. I am well aſſured that there is a great Stock of Money in our Trade of *England*, belonging

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to Foreigners; but I think it the ſafeſt Way to recover out of this Diſtemper by degrees, which hath been growing upon us theſe Thirty Years, to take away the radical Cauſes of the Diſtemper; what ever the Gentleman ſuggeſt of the advantage of Five or Six *per Cent.* to make Merchants of a middle Age grow Lazy; I appeal to the Judgments of thoſe very Merchants, and am well aſſur'd it's a Miſtake, and that it grows from want of being preſerv'd in their Privileges as *Engliſh* Men; and from the prevailing Power of Foreigners and private Intereſt in over-powering the old Rules, and Government, in the Corporation of the City of *London*; that brought the Diſpoſal of the Native Commodities, of our Nation, into the Hands of our Factors and Packers in private Houſes, who to promote their own private Advantage hath Incouraged Aliens, but I proceed to the Gentlemans Conceptions; but in the way, I can't but obſerve his Remark, *Pag.* 27. where he tells us we are not Half ſo much given to Hoſpitality, and good Houſe-keeping (as it is call'd) as in Former Days, when our greateſt Expence was upon our Bellies. The moſt deſtructive Conſumption that can happen to a Nation, and tending only to nouriſh Idle-

Idleneſs, Luxury, and Beggary: Whereas that other kind of Expence, which follows Trade, incourageth Labour, Arts, and Invention: For my own part I had much rather gratifie my Palate, than my Eye, and therefore enter my Proteſt againſt the flouriſhes of Pride: I am ſure we are exhorted to Hoſpitality; after the Example of *Elijah* for the accommodation of the Sons of the Prophets, to put on the great Pot: But I never read of any Incouragement to Pride. I find this Gentleman is a Stranger in the Country, and thinks Husbandry is carried on without Labour. What Advantage doth the Callicoes of the *Eaſt-Indies*, to our Imployment in *England*: It is the Policy of the City to cry down this Publick and Hoſpitable Expence in the Country, thereby the better to maintain that which is more ſecret in old *Fiſh-Street*; where one Dinner with Fiſh and Wine, ſhall coſt more than keeping a Gentlemans Kitching hot with Roaſt beef in the Country the whole *Chriſtmas* Holidays, and entertain double the Number, with our own growth; which is like ſoiling the Land for another Crop, which kept a good underſtanding between Landlords and Tenants; and ſince all hath been carried to *London*, Lands are Impoveriſh'd,

veriſh'd, which makes an uneaſineſs on both ſides, in lowering of Rents, to which being added a greater Burthen of Taxes thro' encreaſe of Poor, which begets a difference at laſt between the Gentleman and his Eſtate even to parting Terms. To ſtarve the Kitchin, to have the Parlor ſet out with *Eaſt-India* Silks and Muſlings (like Flower-pots) looks like the Reign of *Sardanapalus*, and that the whole Body of Government is ſway'd by the Rib, which muſt needs lead into crooked paths.

The Gentleman wiſely begins his Conceptions, *Cap.* 2. with a New Expedient for the Relief of the poor, giving ſo pathetical an Account of their ſad and wretched Condition, ſome famiſhed for want of Bread, others ſtarved with cold and Nakedneſs, Languiſhing, Unhealthy Bodies, ſubject to loathſome Diſeaſes, that it can't but ſpring from a lively ſenſe of his own tender Compaſſions, all which he is pleas'd to tell us, comes from the defect of our Laws, that oblige each Pariſh to maintain their own Poor. Many Pariſhes that Forty Years ſince paid nothing to the Relief of their Poor, are now charg'd Conſiderably; and many others that paid then but one Groat in the Pound, now pay one Shilling, whilſt

their Laws were the ſame with ours: But whilſt the Gentleman gives an Account of ſome that are Eminently Poor; he himſelf is a good Remembrance of ſome that are become Eminently Rich theſe late Years. Whether theſe Extreams don't anſwer each other, I will leave to better Judgments. My Honourable Author tells us, *Page* 46. That no Perſons are more beneficial to Trade in a Nation than Ingroſſers, which I profeſs is a Myſtery beyond my Apprehenſion. When the Callicoes were ingroſs'd, it might make a *Sampſon* or a *Goliah*; but the advantage to thoſe that wore out the Commodity, which were the greater number, I can't perceive.

The New Platform that he preſcribes is this: That the Cities of *London*, and *Weſtminſter*, and the Burrough of *Southwark* by Act of Parliament ſhall be Aſſociated into one Province, or Line of Communication, for Relief of all Poor that come, which he tells us are the Vitals of the Body Politick, which being once made ſound, the Care of the other will not be difficult, *Page* 65 And that they ſhall Receieve and Relieve all that come, after the mode of *Holland*, without enquiring what Nation, much leſs what Pariſh they are of: This Eminent Cha-

Charity is to be tranſacted by an Aſſembly of Seventy Citizens, that are to be choſen by the People, moſt part of Nonconformiſts, who are Excellent Inſtruments for this Work. I thought the Gentleman was a Favourer of that Party, by the length of his Arguments, in which he ſeldom miſſeth Sixteenthly and Laſtly. Theſe are to be incorporated by Act of Parliament, with perpetual Succeſſion by the Honourable and Significant Titles of Fathers of the Poor, to ſit *de Die in Diem*, wearing ſome Honourable Medal, to appoint Deputies under them who ſhall have full Power to Aſſeſs and Receive into their Common Treaſury ſo much Money from every Pariſh, as they Yearly paid to that purpoſe any of the three Years preceding this Conſtitution, and compell the payment thereof, to have the Patent for farthings in their Charter, and a Power to Collect the Charity of all People once every Lord's Day, as likewiſe Week-days at the Play-houſe Doors, and to receive all other Charity of well-diſpoſed Chriſtians: And that theſe Honourable Fathers of the Poor ſhall admit any one into their Societies, upon the Payment of one 100 *l.* for the uſe of the Poor, to be fully impowered to ſend what Poor

they see fit to his Majesties Plantations, and employ the rest at home as the united Wisdom of so Grave an Assembly shall think fit.

The Treasure is to be accounted Sacred, but not to be fenced with any manner of Oaths, or other Tests in Tenderness to the Nonconformists, which I think in this Case are none but Quakers: I will not undertake to censure the frame of this Excellent Project, only offer my own Scruples. I can't but a little Object at the pompous management of the Affair, with the Honourable and Significant Titles and Medals, whilst true Charity always runs in a more private and secret Chanel, the Left-hand not to know what the Right-hand doth, and can't but doubt there is a little of the *Pharisee* in the Composition, in this Age where we drive so much at a shew without Substance. In the next place the select number of Seventy puts me in mind of the seventy Priests that attended upon the famous Image of *Bell*; and I am afraid that the great Retinue of this Honourable Court of Charity will be like the private Attendants upon that famous Image, that eat up the Sacrifices, having provided so good a back-door by Exportation of our Poor, whose Lean-

Leanneſs could never diſcover the Cheat. *Daniel* had been at a loſs here with his Aſhes. The management of it by Citizens, makes me farther doubt, that if our preſent Laws for relief of the Poor were deſtroyed, there would be an Addition of Supplicants attending with the Orphans of the City of *London* petitioning for new Laws again. As the World now goes, there is juſt ground of Uncharitableneſs in Charity its ſelf, and private Deſigns lurk under the moſt ſpecious pretences; how cool are our hot Zealots againſt Popery, now their private Deſigns are not fully anſwered, and the Model of Government not exact to their Splenetick Fancies. The ſenſe of our Taxes outweigh that of Popery.

But ſince this Gentleman hath diſcovered ſo generous a Motion in himſelf to Charity, which he tells us ſhall appear upon his part in viſible and apparent demonſtrations, *Page* 79. And farther aſſured us, that it is no accidental Motion, but came by Succeſſion, Charity running in the Blood, that his Deceaſed Father ſtudied the ſame Work. I doubt not if this Conception ſhould prove Abortive, but we ſhall ſee a diſcreet piece of Charity; there can be no ſtifling of ſo good a Deſign, whilſt he is known to be ſo

great a Master of Invention, and hath declared his good Opinion of Hospitals, where there can be no Jealousie in a plentiful Endowment, and never could any Man command more agreeable Objects; if his Designs are not very Extensive, he may find poor Widows enough that lost their Husbands in the War against the Great *Mogul*.

The Gentleman in his next Chapter favours us with his Judgment of Companies of Merchants, following his Levelling Design, which he tells us are of two sorts, those that Trade with Joynt-stock, as the *East-India* Company, or those that Trade separate, as the *Hamborough*. To carry on the *East-India* Trade, a Company he tells us is needful, but gives his Judgment against other Companies who Trade separate, from the Example of *Holland*, who thrive best in Trade without Companies.

The parallel of which is no more, than that one Gentleman that hath a large Circumference of Ground, and Deer to stock it, shall not impale it, because another doth not, that hath neither Ground nor Deer: He tells us there is no pretence of good to the Nation by Companies, but order and regulation of Trade. This I confess is *Ratio una*, but not *Unica*; For

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as I humbly Conceive, the chief Ground of Incorporating Trade, is to ſecure the Privileges of our own Native Commodities to our own Subjects, in thoſe places where they are moſt acceptable, and advantageous: As I think is plain from the practice of our Anceſtors, in incorporating the *Flanders* and *Germany* Trade in the Hands of the Merchant-Adventurers, the *Ruſſia*, *Turkey*, and *Eaſt-land* Trade, which are the only proper places for Cloth.

Having had Occaſion to ſpeak of Companies of Merchants already in the General, I will here only conſider the *Eaſt-India* Company, which he tells us, *Page* 144. is the moſt Beneficial Trade that this Nation drives at preſent, where I will firſt conſider the Conſtitution of the Company, how far that is National, and then its Operation for the good of the Publick in its Effects.

The principal Stock is much leſs than the Old *Eaſt-India* Company, as he tells us, by which it is plain that the Trade is chiefly carried on by Money at Intereſt, which makes the more for the principal, the Company paying no more than four *per Cent.* ſo no Advantage to the Publick. This Stock being ſmall, is evidently got into few Hands. This Trade is managed

by a Committee, which is every Year to be choſen, where every Five Hundred pounds principal Stock adds a Vote, ſo ſome few of the Principees joyning together, by the multitude of their Votes, ſway the Election; and a Neceſſity of ſome of the Chief Actors to be continued, which I take to be the Cabinet Counſel of the Trade; others of the Committee, being every Year changed, as the Lot falls, is a means to preſerve the conſtant Station of the others. The Commodities that are bought, are managed by the choſen Committee, and they Act at the Sale to decide Differences by the hand. The lower Form of this Company is Stock-jobbing, into which any one may come that will buy an Action, and pay the Company five pounds for Admiſſion, and live well enough if his Wits be ſharp: Theſe are ſweetned with a Dividend as oft as the Cabinet thinks fit, but live by *Crede quod habes & habes.* Here is a ſubtile trade drove in this Form, when two Sharpers meet with a Cully.

And if you think you are in a Nooſe, you dare not ſpeak, becauſe it will make your Stock worſe; and when you have got out at a loſs, the briskneſs of the new Chapman will make you think you have

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ſold too good a Penniworth. This Cabinet likewiſe Governs the ſales of their Goods, they only knowing the whole of their Occaſions; where ſometimes the neceſſity of Affairs, hath required a private Sale of Goods, for a ſpeedy advance of Money; and then the extraordinary Profit may be well enough divided: ſometimes Goods have been put up in large Lots, which can't be bought but by few, who are well enough agreed amongſt themſelves: this is a kind of blind Hotcockles, which is managed as often as their Affairs will admit of Ingroſſing; ſo that the greateſt part of the real Profit of this Company, hath been carried away, by leſs than twenty Families. He tells us that the Company takes no Money at Intereſt, but for a certain time, but doubts not, but that generous Company doth many times pay before it is due, to gratifie any Gentleman. Here I muſt obſerve, that, when Arbitrary Power began to be the Mode, this Honourable Company was early in the Faſhion; and upon a certain Time, they wrote over their Door, *That the* Eaſt India-*Company would pay no Money, until ſuch a time*; which was as high a Touch upon our Laws, as any we had, having ſo many Bonds upon them; no Man I muſt confeſs

fess can pay Money before he hath it, which I suppose was the Case then; but because *Solomon* tells us, *the borrower is Servant to the lender*, this at best lookt a little Saucy, whilest we liv'd under Laws, and there might have been a more civil Answer.

This stop of Cash which made their Ships go away light Freighted (if I am not misinformed) begot a War with the great *Mogul*, their Commodities being made ready in dependance upon the usual Supply; and the Goods got into Hand, and shipt off without Payment, could do no less than work upon an *Indian* Spirit, who are peaceable enough in fair Dealing. But that which is most material to be considered, is the Commodities they furnish us with, and how they are procur'd. The Gentleman tells us, *Pag.* 143. that the *East-India* Company carry out Quantities of Gold and Silver annually, to purchase their Goods; and bring us Home painted Stuffs, Callicoes, Pepper, Salt-petre, Indico, Druggs, Couries. I will pass by the painted Stuffs, because the Butcher beat his Boy, for paying too dear for a specked Calf, and consider the Callicoes, which I take to be the Strength of the *East-India* Trade, from their being become the general

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Wear in *England*. He tells us *Pag.* 146. that were it not for this Trade, the Uſe of Callicoes in *England*, would be ſupply'd with foreign Linens, at greater Prices. This is a Point, that deſerves ſerious Conſideration: For my part I am well ſatisfied, that five Shillings formerly, in fine Hollans, went farther than ten Shilings do now in theſe Cotton Commodities; but will intermeddle no more with Particulars, in this kind, fearing a reſentment.

We had a hot Diſcourſe lately, of carrying on the white Paper Trade, in *England*; a very uſeful Project, and well laid, had we not unluckily wanted Materials to work upon. The ancient Society of Rag-gatherers, are totally deſtroyed; which in former times carried on a pretty Trade, and furniſh'd the good Women in the Country with Pins: But as the *Eaſt-India*-Company flouriſh'd, they faded, a more numerous Society. He tells us, *Page* 90. that the firſt *Eaſt-India* Company ſetled, upon that narrow limited Intereſt, although their Stock was much larger than this, decay'd, and finally came to Ruine and Deſtruction: Whereas on the contrary this being ſetled on more Rational, and conſequently upon more Juſt, as well as upon more profitable prin-

Principles, hath increa'd to treble their firſt Stock. As to the firſt Company and This, there is no compare, for there was no liberty given to export Foreign Coin, and Bullion, until the 15 of *Caroli* II. which he owns is the Strength of this Company, which I take to be a very pernicious Act to this Nation. The time of its making is juſt ground of Suſpicion.

The *Turkey* Company likewiſe hereby took liberty, to ſend Silver to *Turkey*, where we might vend twice the Cloth we now do, could we diſpenſe with their Silks, and the growth of thoſe Parts. The carrying our Bullion to this hot Climate, to procure Callicoes (which hath been a viſible hinderance to thoſe Linens which were the mediate Effect of our own Manufacture) is a double Loſs. It hath evidently increas'd our Expence in Linens, and leſſen'd the Price of our Wooll, that we are leſs able to buy.

The Gentleman ſupports his Company by a farther plauſible Conſideration, That the Commodities that they bring from the *Eaſt-Indies*, are the ſupport of other Foreign Trades, and mentions the *Turkey* Trade, which is ſo great a miſtake and Impoſition, that if there was an Act made, that nothing ſhould be car-

carried to *Turkey* but the growth of our own Nation, it would be the Intereſt of the Publick. As to the other Commodities of Salt-Petre, Pepper, Indico, *&c.* I am well aſſur'd, that theſe Commodities would be cheaper to the Nation in a general Trade to the *Eaſt Indies*, in which Trade there would be a Neceſſity of carrying out our Manufactures of Cloth and Serges, for when Ships go out at no certain Mark, they muſt take Commodities to work upon. The circumſtances of our preſent Affairs, thro' the great danger of the *Streights*, ſeems to preſs hard, to find out what vent we can for our Manufactures by way of the *Eaſt-Indies*; and the ſcarcity of Money in Trade urges no leſs for the Repeal of the Act for Exportation of our Bullion. In receiving One Hundred pounds in *London*, you ſhall ſcarce ſee one Five Shilling piece of Large Money, and if you weigh this Hundred pounds, it ſhall want five pounds in weight, which I doubt not but is gone the ſame way to buy Callicoes, and what comes from the *Weſt-Indies*, is all gone to its oppoſite point, for it is a Rarity to ſee any New Coyn.

The Gentleman prettily obſerves, That one Reaſon of the Complaint of the

the ſcarcity of Money in the Countrey, was the bringing it up in Waggons, which was for no other purpoſe but to have the Large Money pick'd out for this End, which made him ſo readily hit upon the reaſon, being of ſolid weight. A general liberty of Trade to the *Eaſt-Indies* is in my weak Opinion the Intereſt of the Publick, our Merchants being leſſened in the *Flanders* Trade, and a Neceſſity of more to manage our *Spaniſh* Trade, ſhould here be a large Subſcription at this time, it might be wanted, where we are ſure of a Profit to the Nation: But this in ſubmiſſion to better Judgments, and only an inferiour Judgment offer'd to a ſuperiour. Had the Gentleman left out the word *juſt* in his applauded Conſtitution, it had been well, for I can't but judge that the practice of Stock-jobbing is the greateſt Nurſery of Deceit and Cheating as any we have going.

I will paſs by his Act of Navigation which he commends, but by the multitude of Diſcourſe upon it, I can't tell whether he hath been Plantiff or Defendant, and come to his next Conception, *Cap.* 5. which is the transference of Debts. This Project he tells us will encreaſe the uſeful Stock of the Nation a third

third part: The Gentleman's Talent leads him very much to an Artificial Advance of Riches, whilſt the Old Rule is ſafeſt, *Quantum quiſque ſua nummorum ſervat in Arca Tantum habet & fidei*; leſs reſort in thoſe days to the *Mint* and *White-Friars*. The Project is this: That by Act of Parliament all Perſons that buy any Goods for time, above the value of ten pounds, ſhall be obliged to give Bills for the ſame under their Hands and Seals, which Bills by Aſſignment from one Man to another for other Goods, ſhall be full payment. I am of Opinion, that this is not practicable in *England*, where the bulk of Trade is managed between the Countrey and the City at a great diſtance. Suppoſing for Example that a Clothier ſhould bring his Goods one hundred miles to *London*, and here ſhould be offer'd for it Bills from an unknown Hand, he hath no way to inform himſelf any thing in the matter but by *Londoners*, who are uſually very tender of each others Credit; or a Shopkeeper at *York* ſhould buy Goods of a Linen-Draper in *London*, and give his Bills, what ſatisfaction could this be to a Merchant in *London* to accept this Bill as full payment? Here would be many Cheats acted. Paper (as we under-

understand Trade now) doth not pay Debts; and what the Gentleman suggests of Goldsmiths Notes, that by no means doth answer this Matter, that being only a speedy passage to save an immediate pains, and this a considerable time to act any cheat, the Credit of great Persons would hereby get an advantage of those of less Note in Trade.

And as to his Second Answer, That no Man can be cheated but with his own Consent, and we commonly say, *Caveat Emptor*, I think his Reason ought to be more refin'd before he is fit to make a Judge; why should any Person be put upon a Temptation to part with a certainty for an uncertainty, and how can a Countreyman and a *Londoner* be upon equal ground in dealing in this way, and where is the impartial Justice?

But whatsoever Difficulties and Contests do hereby arise, he hath conceived a Remedy at hand, by a Law Merchant, in his next Chapter, which shall speedily decide the Controversie. He hath shew'd himself a compleat Interloper, and left but one step that he hath not attempted. I will not here answer for his Thoughts, Merchants to be Privy Counsellors, Judges, Fathers of the Poor, by Election of the People. His Model

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is this: That it be Enacted, That in the City of *London* there ſhall be a Court-Merchant, conſiſting of twelve able Merchants, (anſwerable to our twelve Judges) to be choſen by the Livery-Men the Monday before *Michaelmas*, to be Authorized to hear and determine all differences and demands that ariſe between Merchants, Tradeſmen, Artificers, Maſters, and Owners of Ships, Seamen, Boatmen, Freighters of Ships, or Money due for the ſale of Goods, or any other thing relating to Trade or Shipping, to extend to all Actions done in the City of *London*, or ten Miles adjacent; to be a Court of Record as the Judges are, that they, or any three of them ſhall have Power to Convene all Perſons before them, and to have as full power as the Judges: An Appeal from three to a greater number, but afterwards to no lower Court than the Houſe of Lords: That they take nothing for their pains, directly or indirectly, but Six-pence each for ſigning every ſmall Order, if the Money do not exceed ten pounds; Twelve-pence, not exceeding One Hundred pounds; and two Shillings for every Sum above, and they themſelves are to make a Table of Fees for their Officers. Theſe are to be Elected anew eve-

ry Year, and six of the old Judges to be cast off.

The Gentleman hath omitted, (thro' forgetfulness I suppose) to Name Counsel and Attorneys, which I humbly conceive will be absolutely needful according to the Ancient Rule, to implead each other, fearing otherwise there might be swallowing without chewing, and too great a Croud at the Door of the House of Lords. And to strengthen the Project, I humbly recommend our Brokers for Counsel, and our Factors for Solicitors. The Court I must confess is cheap enough, were we secure from the word *indirectly*, many Merchants having been us'd so long to private Commission for doing of business; and then to have six New ones every Year, not a Merchant in a little time but hath been a Judge, and the Station so slippery, only the sense of the People, it will be thought by some to be a Harvest.

The Honourable Gentleman tells us, *P.* 31. *Nec Natura aut Lex operantur per Saltum.* To turn a Merchant into a Judge, seems to me to be an Act *per saltum*; and how it will be digested by a second Brother, that hath spent his whole time in unfolding the Mysteries of the Law, and refining his Reason, when he shall see his Younger

Younger Brother acting in this Station. There are greater Qualifications needfull to make a Judge, than this Gentleman at preſent thinks upon. There can be no doubt of the fitneſs of the Propoſer to make one of the Twelve himſelf: And yet I find this very Gentleman quarrelling, *Page* 45. againſt two Laws (that he would have repeal'd) that were never made, *viz.* one againſt Inn-mates in Towns and Cities, which is againſt Reaſon, and excepted in the Statute 31 *Eliz. Cap.* 7. againſt Inn-mates in private Places in the Countrey; the other that oblige Pariſhes to maintain their own Poor only, whilſt our Laws are more reaſonable, and impower the Juſtices of Peace to charge the next Pariſh to aſſiſt, or the Hundred, where one Pariſh is overcharged with their Poor.

I doubt it will be hard upon our Livery men to keep a due Temper, (being Naturally hot) in all theſe Elections, Common Council-men, Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Law-Merchants, Fathers of the Poor, and as oft as any Die, to be fill'd up by Election; having ſo great a Concern of the Government upon their Hands, I fear they will be ready to manage the whole by Election.

But I proceed to his next Conception, *Chap.* 7. which is an Act of Naturalization; the Neceſſity of which Act he tells us is ſo generally own'd and aſſented to by all degrees of Men, that he no way doubts but a ſhort time will produce it, and only takes care like a Harbinger, to make way for its effectual Operation, by laying aſide the privileges of Encorporated Cities, the Societies of Artificers that have greater privileges in ſome Corporations than Strangers; the Branch of the Statute 5. *Eliz.* which Enacts, That none ſhall uſe any Manual Occupation, that hath not ſerved an Apprenticeſhip thereunto. The Statutes of *Eliz.* are an Eye-ſore to him thro' the whole Deſign. I profeſs, conſidering the Gentleman's Confidence, I wonder he don't ſpeak his Opinion of the Statute of *Weſtminſter*, *De donis Conditionalibus*, that unlucky Prop of Monarchy. He gave it a broad-ſide in his Law of Gavel kind, that he recommended; and another touch in deſpiſing one thouſand pounds left to a Young Son of a Gentleman to make a Merchant. The force of this Statute to his Boſom Friend, the Rich Milliner, is like the intenſe Sword, that hang'd by a Horſe-hair over *Damocles*'s Head at the Dain-

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ties of *Dionyſius*'s Table, which a little palls his Thoughts, when for his Diverſion he takes a Walk into his large Folio of Debts, to view his Extravagant Profit, where he hath a kind of ſecret Converſe, with moſt of the Conſiderable Gentlemen of the County; and altho' he hath never a Park of his own, he can there find where he can command a piece of Veniſon at any time, by drawing out an Account of the oldeſt Date. But I Correct my ſelf here, being ſenſible that this Gentleman is a greater Maſter of Deſign, well knowing that he that fooliſhly attempted to pull off the Horſe-tail at once, ſat down in a Diſappointment, whilſt he that pull'd leech by leech at firſt, ſoon brought it into his power, and effected his Deſign.

The only Difficulty he finds, is with the Jews, becauſe they can't intermarry with us: which I profeſs with me is the greateſt inducement, being very tender of having our Engliſh breed ſpoil'd. I am here methinks ready to ask the Gentleman whether he is fully ſatisfied that our Tempers will agree; or whether theſe great Merchants that are to be Naturalized, who have been always us'd to a Common-wealth Government, will be eaſie under Monarchy: This I

am aſſur'd of by Experience, that the Merchants of the *Still-yard* that were indulged by *Henry* III. were a great hinderance to our *Engliſh* Merchants in Trade, and it was a great Difficulty to get rid of them again. The Gentleman ſeems to foreſee ſome ſuch doubts, and lays down a principle or two.

1. That all Men by Nature are alike, and takes Mr. *Hobbs* for his Voucher; there is a particular Quality amongſt our true *Britains*, a kind of Magnetick force in their Fingers, whether it come from the ſoil that they are bred in, or how, I can't determine, and it is ſaid, that *Cœlum non animos mutant qui trans mare currunt:* But this is too deep for my underſtanding.

2. Fear is the cauſe of Hatred, and Hatred of Separation, in which he ſeems to preſs as hard for a toleration in Religion, as if there was nothing done in it.

The advantage that offers to Conſideration in this particular, is the encreaſe of Hands in Trade, and the encreaſe of Stock, *Edward* the IIId. in the Infancy of Trade recover'd Manufactures enough by the ſtop of our *Engliſh* Wooll from Exportation; and the Caſe can't be much alter'd in the other, if we ſecure

ſecure our own Privileges ; for the ſame Dutch Money that now buys our Native Commodities at home, will be brought to our Merchants Ware-houſes at *Hamborough*, *Rotterdam* and *Dort*, or where they are fixt for the beſt Accommodation, which will ſoon come over, and that Merchant that hath an equal Privilege in *England*, and a better Intereſt abroad, will be ſure to carry the Trade : So that by this Act we give away the Privilege of the Merchandice of our Native Commodities to Aliens, if not Monarchy too.

I come now to his 8 *Chap.* where he toucheth upon Wooll, and Woollen Manufactures, which he tells us is eminently the foundation of our *Engliſh* Riches. He firſt complains of Exportation of Wooll, and then tells us he doubts not but we ſhall ſee ſome more effectual Laws to prevent it ; but in a Page farther puts us out of Hope again, by telling us the *Dutch* will be able to give a better Price for our Wooll, and they that can give the beſt Price for a Commodity, ſhall never fail to have it, by one means or other, notwithſtanding the oppoſition of any Law, or interpoſition of any Power by Sea or Land, after which he puts this material Queſtion : What will improve

our Woollen Manufacture in quality and quantity, which he tells us is a very great Queſtion, that he hath many Years conſidered, not ſolitarily, but by converſe with the skillfulleſt Men, in the Woollen-manufacture; and indeed ſpeaks like a Philoſopher to the Point. To advance the Quality of it, he firſt condemns all Laws that held it to a Goodneſs, and then gives a Liberty to any Perſon, to make it as he pleaſes, to ſtrain it as much as he ſees fit, and makes a Confuſion in all Trades; a Weaver to be a Tucker, Fuller, or Dyer; and tells us, *Pag.* 132. that ſtraining of Cloth, is abſolutely neceſſary for the Trade of *England*; if we did not do it, the *Dutch* would buy our unſtrain'd Cloth, and carry it into *Holland*, and ſtrain it ſix or ſeven Yards in a Piece in Length, and make it look a little better to the Eye, and carry it to *Turkey*, and out ſell us. The Gentleman hath here diſcovered himſelf to be a perfect *Eaſt India* Merchant, and that he knows nothing in the Woollen Manufacture; for all People know that ſtraining of Cloth, doth ſpoil the Looks of it: He then puts a Queſtion to himſelf, Whether it would be the advantage of *England* to leave all Men to a Liberty, to make what Cloth and Stuff they pleaſe; how

how they will, where, and when they will, of any Lengths and Sizes.

I Anſwer, Yes, except *Colcheſter* Bayes, Perpetuanaes, Cheanys, which ſhould be allowed the Honour of the publick Seal, to be bought, and ſold here, and beyond Sea, as if it were upon the publick Faith of *England*. Theſe Commodities that he names are the moſt inconſiderable in the Woollen-Manufacture. I doubt he is here in a *delirium*, and I hope I ſhall be able to ſet him Right. By his better Thoughts, *Pag.* 3. he recommends to us, the Practice of *Holland*, in their exact making their Native Commodities, that the buyers will accept them by the Marks, without opening; and as much condemns our Practiſes, that ours prove Deceitful; that our Buſineſs of the Awlnage, which our Fore-Fathers deſign'd for a ſcrutiny of the Goodneſs of the Commodity, is now of no ſignification, and Seals may be bought by the Thouſands, and put upon what the Buyers pleaſe.

I would here ask the Gentleman, whether this exactneſs in *Holland*, doth come from the care of the Government, or from giving a free Liberty, as he here adviſeth. For further ſatisfaction in this Point, I will give you his Opinion. After he tells you this, *Pag.* 161. upon the ſame Subject he tells

tells us, that publick Juſtice, and Honeſty, will make it the Intereſt of other Nations, to trade with us; that is, when our Commodities paſs under a publick common Seal, which is the publick Faith of the Nation; they may be exact in Breadth, and Nature, according to what they ought to be by their Seals; ſo that this being but a Parentheſis, I will give no farther Trouble.

In his next Chapter, he treats of the Balance of Trade, in which he firſt tells us in the Study of Trade, there is an infinite not to be fathom'd; he takes notice before of his Majeſty's recommending the Balance of Trade to the Parliament; a worthy and prudent Conſideration. But I think in his treatiſe upon the Point, he hath gone ſo far from the Scope of his Theam, that had he been under Diſcipline, he muſt have undergone the Correction. He would have us to underſtand, by the Balance of Trade, an Account made up for the whole Nation, in the particulars of Profit, and Loſs; in which I muſt confeſs, there is an infinite: And firſt makes an eſſay towards it by the value of Exchange from Foreign Parts, but is there at a Loſs: But at laſt centers in a ſatisfaction on our ſide, that all is well from the multitude

titude, and increase of Shipping, which I think is the greatest uncertainty imaginable, it being always intermixt with other Nations; a greater part of Trade drawn to *London* than formerly, and more Shipping at home, at some Seasons than other, had his Majesty's Gracious Recommendation, for the good of his laborious Subjects, been answered by an Account how Exchange did govern from all Foreign Parts, or that he had a multitude of Shipping in the River, there had been need of an Expositor in the Matter.

The true Balance of Trade,(in submission to better Judgments) I understand to be in the first place, to make Trade equal to all their Majesties Subjects in their Stations, that some by private Ingrossing, and Intriguing ways, may not oppress others, in a strict care of preserving publick Markets. In the next place, that Companies of Merchants shall not deferr their Shippings, to advance Goods to an Extraordinary Price abroad, and likewise the returns home; this concerns the Publick.

And then upon the other Hand, in a prudent laying of our Customs upon foreign Commodities, to the advancement of our Trade; where Commodities for

for our Service come in competition, which ought to be a well ſtudied Point, and I think is the juſt Balance of Trade. And were our Care in theſe Particulars, but anſwerable to the benign Favour of Providence, we ſhould ſoon appear to be the moſt Glorious Nation in the whole World. I find little remarkable in this Chapter, more than *Pag.* 149. where he gives us an Account of the Noble Society he keeps.

Oh nummi! vobis hunc præſtat honorem:
Vos eſtis fratres.

I ſhall give the Gentleman no diſturbance in his Diſcourſe of the Plantations, having taken ſo good a Care to furniſh them with People: And had he not been conſcious to himſelf of the weakneſs of his own Arguments, to reduce Intereſt of Money, he had never troubled the World with old Reaſons, that were given to bring it from Ten to Eight, whilſt we are already at Six.

And thus much for the Conceptions of the Honourable Sir *Joſiah Child*; where, in my weak Opinion, *parturiunt montes*, he hath conceived much, and brought forth little. And yet a Matter of greater Deſign, than can be eaſily fathomed: He hath

hath laid down a great many things Ambiguouſly, where he hath a Senſe, that he can ſave himſelf: Firſt, that we have now much more Money in *England*, than we had Twenty years paſt; which may be, and one Quarter belonging to Aliens. *Pag.* 23. he tells us, if Intereſt of Money was reduced to Three or Four *per Cent.* our Nobility, and Gentry, whoſe Eſtates be moſtly in Lands, may preſently, upon all they have, inſtead of Fifty, write one Hundred: The Gentleman by long uſe, in multiplying the *Eaſt-India* Actions, hath brought himſelf to a Habit of large Speaking; but ſuppoſe they wrote Two hundred, what then? *Pag.* 145. he tells us, that the *Eaſt-India* Goods Exported hence, do produce, in Foreign Parts, to be returned to *England*, ſix times the Treaſure *in ſpecie*, that the Company exports from hence; which by its Face ſeems to imply, That for every Shilling carried hence, by the *Eaſt-India* Company, they lodge ſix with us from other Parts, which hath no ſhadow of Truth; but he can ſave himſelf by the return in Goods.

There is a remarkable ſort of cunning in the Lapwing: If you come into a Field, in which is her Neſt, ſhe will expreſs the greateſt Concern, by her loud crying

crying, when you are fartheſt from it, to put you upon the more diligent ſearch, where ſhe is moſt ſecure; and ſeems unconcern'd when you are neareſt, to make you the more remiſs. This Gentleman hath a warm Neſt of theſe Cotton Commodities, that hath hurt many a Gentleman in his Eſtate, when he hath not been well ſenſible of it; which doubtleſs he is willing to continue: And farthermore the Opinion of ſo great a Perſon in a doubtfull Point, will go far with thoſe, that do not give themſelves the trouble, cloſely to examine Matters. *Ipſe dixit*, put an end to all Controverſies amongſt l *Pythagoras*'s Scholars.

FINIS.